

TODAY

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Egypt's Morsi Declares State Of Emergency

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president declared on Sunday a 30-day state of emergency and night curfew in the three Suez Canal provinces hit hardest by the wave of violence that has left more than 50 dead in three days.

Angry and almost screaming, Mohammed Morsi vowed in a televised address that he would not hesitate to take even more action to stem the latest eruption of violence across much of the country.



An Egyptian riot police officer fires tear gas during clashes in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

AP Photo/Khalil Hamra

But at the same time, he sought to reassure Egyptians that his latest moves would not plunge the country back into authoritarianism.

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A rose is placed on top of a sign that reads "Stop" with a skull painted, near the gate at the concentration camp during a ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz by Soviet troops and to remember the victims of the Holocaust, in Auschwitz Birkenau in Oswiecim, Poland, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Czarek Sokolowski)

Holocaust Victims Mourned With Solemn Prayers

VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Holocaust survivors, politicians, religious leaders and others marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday with solemn prayers and the now oft-repeated warnings to never let such horrors happen again.

Events took place at sites including Auschwitz-Birkenau, the former death camp where Hitler's Germany killed at least 1.1 million people, mostly Jews, in southern Poland. In Warsaw, prayers were also

held at a monument to the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. Pope Benedict XVI, speaking from his window at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, warned that humanity must always be on guard against a repeat of murderous racism.

"The memory of this immense tragedy, which above all struck so harshly the Jewish people, must represent for everyone a constant warning so that the horrors of the past are not repeated, so that every form of hatred and racism is overcome, and that

respect for, and dignity of, every human person is encouraged," the German-born pontiff said.

The United Nations in 2005 designated Jan. 27 as a yearly memorial day for the victims of the Holocaust — 6 million Jews and millions of other victims of Nazi Germany during World War II.

The day was chosen because it falls on the anniversary of the liberation in 1945 of Auschwitz, the Nazis' most notorious death camp and a symbol of the evil inflicted across the continent.

"Those who experienced the horrors of the cattle cars, ghettos, and concentration camps have witnessed humanity at its very worst and know too well the pain of losing loved ones to senseless violence," U.S. President Barack Obama said in a statement.

Obama went on to say that like those who resisted the Nazis, "we must commit ourselves to resisting hate and persecution in all its forms."

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Bloomberg to Johns Hopkins University: Thanks a billion!

MICHAEL BARBARO
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BALTIMORE – He arrived on campus a middling high school student from Medford, Mass., who had settled for C's and had confined his ambitions to the math club.

But by the time Michael R. Bloomberg left Johns Hopkins University, with a smattering of A's and a lust for leadership, he was a social and political star – the president of his fraternity, his senior class and the council overseeing Greek life. "An all-around big man on campus," as he puts it.

His gratitude toward the university, starting with a \$5 donation the year after he graduated, has since taken on a supersize, Bloombergian scale.

On Sunday, as he makes a \$350 million gift to his alma mater – by far the largest in its history – the New York City mayor, along with the president of the university, will disclose the staggering sum of his donations to Johns Hopkins over the past four decades: \$1.1 billion. That figure, kept quiet even as it transformed every corner of the university, makes Bloomberg the most generous living donor to any education institution in the United States, according to university officials and philanthropic tallies.

The timing of his latest donation, as the mayor's third term draws to a close, offers a glimpse of the sky-is-the-limit philanthropy that he and his aides say is likely to dominate his life after City Hall. The mayor, who is 70, has pledged to give away all of his \$25 billion fortune before he dies, and he has built up a foundation on the Upper East Side of Manhattan to carry out the task.

At the same time, the donations highlight the unusually close relationship between Bloomberg and Johns Hopkins, which, interviews show, has played an unseen role in several of his biggest undertakings as mayor.

In an interview here, Bloomberg said he was making his donations pub-

lic to encourage greater charitable giving toward education. He lamented, "In our society, we are defunding education."

The mayor, a member of the class of 1964, explained his fidelity to the university in deeply personal terms. "If I had been the son of

academics," he added, "maybe I would have been on campuses and would never have been as impressed as I was when I

was here, because it's the first time I really was walking among people who were world leaders, who were creating, inventing." □



New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg poses for a portrait near Gilman Hall on the Homewood Campus of his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Md. Bloomberg is the most generous living donor to any education institution in the United States, according to university officials and philanthropic tallies.

(Like Sharrett/The New York Times)

Former Mayor Koch released from hospital

THE NEW YORK TIMES
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NEW YORK – Former Mayor Edward I. Koch was released from a hospital in Manhattan this weekend, one week after he sought care for a lung ailment, a spokesman for Koch said. As he left New York-Presbyterian/Columbia hospital on a cold and bright day, Koch, 88, said he was feeling much better and planned to be back in his law office Monday, according to the spokesman, Fred Winters.

It was the third time that the former mayor had been hospitalized in recent months.

Koch, who led New York for 12 years beginning in 1978 after serving in Congress and on the City Council, was told to limit



Former New York City Mayor Ed Koch gets in his car after being released from the hospital in New York.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

the amount of salt in his diet, something of a challenge for a man who said that the two staples of his diet were garlic and salt. Nevertheless, he seemed in good spirits.

At a lunch with former

aides on Jan. 19, Koch complained of swollen ankles and breathing problems. That night, a physician friend told the former mayor that he should get medical attention, and Koch headed to the hospital. Tests showed he had fluid on the lungs.

Koch was last hospitalized in December, when he was treated for a lung infection. In September, he was admitted for treatment of anemia. □



A woman lights a candle as she attends a memorial ceremony during the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday Jan. 27, 2013, at Raoul Wallenberg Square in Stockholm, Sweden.

(AP Photo/Scanspix Sweden, Leif R Jansson)

Holocaust Victims Mourned With Solemn Prayers

Continued from front

The United States, along with the international community, resolves to stand in the way of any tyrant or dictator who commits crimes against humanity, and stay true to the principle of 'Never Again.'"

As every year, Holocaust survivors gathered in the cold Polish winter at Auschwitz — but they shrink in number each year.

This year the key event in the ceremonies was the opening of an exhibition prepared by Russian experts that depicts Soviet suffering at the camp and the Soviet role in liberating it. The opening was presided over by Sergey Naryshkin, chairman of the Russian State Duma.

Several years ago, Polish officials stopped the opening of a previous exhibition. It was deemed offensive because the Russians depicted Poles, Lithuanians and others in Soviet-controlled territory as Soviet citizens. Poles and others protested this label since they were occupied against their will by the Soviets at the start of World War II.

The new exhibition — titled "Tragedy. Courage. Liberation" and prepared by the Museum of the Great Patriotic War in Moscow — removes the controversial terminology. It took years of discussions between Polish and Russian experts to finally complete it.

The exhibition narrates the Nazi crimes committed against Soviet POWs at Auschwitz, where they were the fourth largest group of prisoners, and at other sites. And it shows how the Red Army liberated the camp on Jan. 27, 1945, and helped the inmates afterward.

Also Sunday, a ceremony was held in Moscow at the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, which opened in November and is Russia's first major attempt to tell the story of its Jewish community. The museum portrays Russia as a safe and welcoming place for Jews today despite its history of pogroms and discrimination.

In Serbia, survivors and officials gathered at the site of a former concentration camp in the capital, Belgrade, to remember the Jewish, Serb and Roma victims of the Nazi occupation of the country.

Parliament speaker Nebojsa Stefanovic said it is the task of the new generations never to forget the Holocaust crimes, including those against Serbs.

"Many brutal crimes have been left without punishment, redemption and commemoration," he said. "I want to believe that by remembering the death and suffering of the victims the new generations will be obliged to fight any form of prejudice, racism and chauvinism, anti-Semitism and hatred." □

Sen. Feinstein: Gun control faces tough odds to pass U.S. Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just days before the Senate begins debating new gun control measures supported by President Barack Obama, the Democratic senator who is leading the push to restore an assault weapons ban acknowledged on Sunday that the effort faces tough odds to pass Congress but has public support.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California told CBS television's "Face the Nation" that a coalition of police, clergy and voters would push forward her gun control measure over objections from the nation's largest gun-rights lobbying

"I think I can get it passed because the American people are very much for it," Feinstein said of the measure that follows a similar measure she championed into law 1994 but expired a decade later. She acknowledged, however, the NRA's political clout to raise large amounts of money to defeat lawmakers who support gun control. She said the NRA has become a pawn of those who make weapons.

"The NRA is venal. ... The NRA has become an institution of gun manufacturers," she said.

The NRA disputed her characterization.

was wounded in a 2011 mass shooting that killed six in Tucson, Arizona, plans to testify in support of gun control laws.

Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the Republican vice presidential nominee in 2012, said Congress should focus on the causes of violence and not the weapons alone.

"We need to look beyond just recycling failed policies of the past. ... Let's go beyond just this debate and make sure we get deeper. What's our policy on mental illness? What's going on in our culture that produces this kind of thing? You know, we need to have that kind of a discussion



Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., introduces legislation on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition feeding devices on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

group, the National Rifle Association.

Feinstein on Thursday introduced a bill that would prohibit 157 specific weapons and ammunition magazines that have more than 10 rounds. The White House and fellow Democrats are skeptical the measure is going anywhere, given lawmakers who are looking toward re-election might fear pro-gun voters and the NRA.

"This has always been an uphill fight. This has never been easy. This is the hardest of the hard," Feinstein said.

"The NRA is a grass-roots organization. We have more than 4 million dues-paying members and tens of millions of supporters all across this country. Our political power comes from them. Decent and logical people would understand that," spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to take up the gun control proposals on Wednesday and hear testimony from the NRA's CEO and senior vice president, Wayne LaPierre. Mark Kelly, the husband of former Rep. Gabby Giffords, who

and debate," Ryan said. In the wake of the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, Obama is pushing for universal background checks on gun purchasers, restoring the assault weapons ban and banning high-capacity ammunition magazines.

Obama's proposals drew support from thousands of people, many holding signs with the names of gun violence victims and messages such as "Ban Assault Weapons Now," taking part in a rally for gun control on Saturday in the U.S. capital. □

On the eve of this week's announcement: Lawmakers confident in immigration overhaul this year

MICHELE SALCEDO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican and Democratic lawmakers were cautiously optimistic Sunday that a long-sought overhaul of the U.S. immigration system that includes a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants currently in the country will clear Congress this year, the result of changes in the political landscape reflected in November's election. Despite making little progress on immigration in his first term, President Barack Obama won more than 70 percent of the Latino vote, in part because of the conservative positions on immigration that Republican nominee Mitt Romney staked out during the



Applicants wait in Casa de Maryland in Langley Park, Md., before they can apply for the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals. More than 6 in 10 Americans now favor allowing illegal immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens, a major increase in support driven by a turnaround in Republicans' opinion after the 2012 elections.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Republican primary when he advocated toughening restrictions to encourage "self-deportation" for illegal immigrants. Latino

voters accounted for 10 percent of the electorate in November. Obama is to press his case for immigration changes during a

trip to Las Vegas Tuesday: a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants that includes paying fines and back taxes; increased border security; mandatory penalties for businesses that employ unauthorized immigrants; and improvements to the legal immigration system, including giving green cards granting permanent resident status to high-skilled workers and lifting caps on legal immigration for the immediate family members of U.S. citizens. A six-member, bipartisan Senate group has been working on a framework for immigration legislation to be announced this week. "We are trying to work our way through some very difficult issues," said Illinois' Sen. Richard Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, who is a member of the bipartisan group. "But, we are committed to a comprehensive approach to finally, in this country, have an immigration law we can live with. We have virtually been going maybe 25 years without a clear statement about immigration policy. That's unacceptable in this nation of immigrants." Another group member, Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, a Cuban-American, said current politics dictate that a pathway for citizenship must be included. "Let's be very clear: having a pathway to earned legalization is an essential

element. And I think that we are largely moving in that direction as an agreement," said Menendez.

But the package "will have the enhancement of the border security," he said, nodding to Republicans' priority to tighten borders to prevent future illegal immigration. He also said the package would have to crack down on employers hiring undocumented workers. Arizona Republican McCain has returned to the issue with the six-senator group after having led a failed push to fix the nation's broken immigration system ahead of his 2008 bid for the White House.

McCain said: "What's changed, honestly, is that there is a new, I think, appreciation on both sides of the aisle — including, maybe more importantly on the Republican side of the aisle, that we have to enact a comprehensive immigration reform bill."

In an opinion piece published online Sunday in the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sen. Marco Rubio, also a member of the bipartisan Senate group, laid out his proposal to address the issue. The Florida Republican, son of Cuban immigrants, wrote that "significant progress" on enforcing immigration laws must be certified before unauthorized immigrants now in the country are allowed to apply for residency and "get in the back of the line." □

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7 dead, 6 injured by guns in Chicago weekend violence

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago authorities say seven people were killed and six wounded in gun violence in one day.

Among those killed Saturday was a 34-year-old man whose mother had already lost her three other children to shootings. Police say Ronnie Chambers, who was his mother's youngest child, was shot in the head while sitting in a car.

Police say two separate double-homicide shoot-

ings also occurred Saturday about 12 hours apart. In one, a 16-year-old boy and a 32-year-old man were killed. In another, two men were shot at a hamburger stand on the city's South Side. Police say the victims were roommates in their 40s. Chicago's homicide count eclipsed 500 last year for the first time since 2008. Chicago's homicide rate was almost double in the early 1990s, averaging around 900. □

Family seeking missing NY woman off to Turkey

DEEPTI HAJELA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Relatives of a missing New York City woman who disappeared while on vacation in Turkey, her first trip outside the U.S., are heading to Istanbul to look for her, her brother said Sunday.

Sarai Sierra's family was last in touch with her on Monday, the day she was supposed to start her journey home. The 33-year-old mother of two had been in Turkey on her own since Jan. 7.

Her brother David Jimenez told The Associated Press that he and Sierra's husband, Steven, were planning to leave for Turkey on Sunday night. He said he had no return date planned.

"I don't want to come home without my sister," Jimenez said.

Sierra planned to head to the Galata Bridge, a well-known tourist destination that spans the Golden Horn waterway, to take some photographs, said her mother, Betzaida Jimenez. Her daughter was then supposed to begin traveling home and was scheduled to arrive in New



Sarai Sierra is shown in an undated family photo, in New York. Sierra has reportedly gone missing during a trip to Turkey. She last contacted her family, Monday, Jan. 21, 2013, the day she was to fly from Istanbul to New York.

(AP Photo/Family Photo)

York City on Tuesday afternoon.

Sierra's father went to pick her up at the airport and "waited there for hours" with no sign of his daughter, Jimenez said.

Sierra had planned to go on the trip with a friend but ended up going by herself when the friend couldn't make it. She was looking forward to exploring her

hobby of photography, her family said.

"I was nervous. I didn't want my daughter to go," Jimenez said, but the trip had passed smoothly with Sierra in regular contact with her family and friends through text messaging and phone calls.

"She would always call and let us know, 'This is what I did today,'" Jimenez said. When she didn't show up in New York City, her husband called the place where she had been staying, David Jimenez said. The owner of the hostel checked her room and saw that her passport, equipment chargers and other items were still there.

"It looked like she was just stepping out," he said.

The family has been in

touch with authorities in their efforts to find her. No one was available to comment after hours Sunday at Istanbul police headquarters. Crime in Turkey is generally low and Istanbul is a relatively safe city for travelers, though there are areas where women would be advised to avoid going alone at night. The Galata and the nearby Galata Bridge areas have been gentrified and are home to fish restaurants, cafes and boutiques.

Sierra's children, ages 11 and 9, do not know their mother is missing, her brother said. Betzaida Jimenez said the situation has "been a nightmare."

"I'm forcing myself to get up because I have to get up," she said. □

Stranded Arizona hikers rescued

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) — Teams on the ground and in the air rescued dozens of hikers who were stranded in an Arizona canyon after heavy rains flooded trails, authorities said.

Forty to 50 adults and children were stranded Saturday along various sections of Bear Canyon northeast of Tucson as the waters rushed down mountainsides, the Pima County Sheriff's Department said. A series of emergency calls from hikers sparked a rescue operation involving teams on the ground and in a helicopter.

The first group of hikers was led out of the canyon in the Catalina Mountains in

the late afternoon and the last group well after dark, deputy Tom Peine told the Arizona Daily Star.

Some of the hikers said they were stranded when a river swelled to a raging torrent in a matter of minutes.

"I've never seen anything like this," hiker Jesse Boyd told KGUN-TV. "I've gotten caught in rain out here, but nothing to the point where I had to be rescued."

With some hikers, rescuers used a technique that involved roping them together with flotation devices to help get them through high water. Some of the hikers were flown out by helicopter. □

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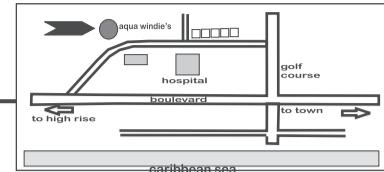
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Court overturns EPA's biofuels rule, says 'wishful thinking'

MATTHEW L. WALD

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WASHINGTON – A federal appeals court has thrown out a federal rule on renewable fuels, saying that a quota set by the Environmental Protection Agency for incorporating liquids made from woody crops and wastes into car and truck fuels was based on wishful thinking rather than realistic estimates of what could be achieved.

The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia involved a case brought by the American Petroleum Institute, whose members were bound by the 2012 cellulosic biofuels quota being challenged. Production of advanced biofuels for use in gasoline is a cherished goal of the Obama administra-

tion and a major long-term hope for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. But production of the "cellulosic" fuel, made from woody material, has been slow to start up, making it virtually impossible to come by. That has presented the refiners, the ones required to buy the cellulosic fuel, with a quandary. From 2010 through 2012, the EPA has required gradually higher levels of cellulosic fuel to be incorporated into motor fuel each year, for a total of 20 million gallons to date. But actual production has been near zero.

While the mandate springs from a 2007 act of Congress meant to promote advanced biofuels to run cars and trucks, "we are not convinced that Con-

gress meant for EPA to let that intent color its work as a predictor, to let the wish be father to the thought," the court wrote.

Bob Greco, the American Petroleum Institute's

who is producing the fuel," he said of the emergent cellulosic fuel ventures in an interview. "They're incentivized to pump up their projections via press release and make rosy esti-

rule is fundamentally different from other regulations, it said. It is intended to force an industry to develop new technology to meet environmental goals, but in this case, the regulated industry was the refiner, not the producer, the court said. "Apart from their role as captive consumers, the refiners are in no position to ensure, or even contribute to, growth in the cellulosic biofuel industry," the judges wrote. They said the EPA's message was essentially, "Do a good job, cellulosic fuel producers. If you fail, we'll fine your customers."

But the Renewable Fuels Association, a trade group that represents the cellulosic manufacturers, said the agency had acted reasonably. "The EPA did not determine a reasonably achievable volume and then inflate it," the association said in a statement. "Rather, it set the volume based on the best information available to it at the time." □



An Ineos Bio factory, where woody material and wastes are converted to ethanol, in Vero Beach, Fla. A federal appeals court has ruled that a quota set by the EPA for incorporating liquids made from woody crops and wastes into car and truck fuels was unrealistic. (John Van Beekum/The New York Times)

director for downstream and industry operations, welcomed the decision, saying that the structure for setting the quota was flawed.

"There is no onus or accountability on the person

mates because there's no skin off their back if they fail to hit those."

Then the EPA sets quotas that are too high, he said. The three-judge panel made a similar point in its decision. The cellulosic fuel

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Harkin won't seek senate re-election

JEFF ZELENY

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WASHINGTON – Sen. Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa who championed landmark legislation banning discrimination against people with disabilities, said Saturday he would retire and not seek re-election next year to a sixth term. The announcement from Harkin sets the stage for one of the most competitive Senate races in the country in the 2014 midterm elections. It will be a crucial contest in the Republican Party's quest to win control of the chamber from Democrats.

"It's not easy to walk away, but life is fleeting," Harkin,

73, said in an interview Saturday. "I've had the privilege to be here for 40 years. Too many people hang on to power for too long, and that's not right." In a Washington career that began in 1974 when he was elected to the House, followed a decade later by his elevation to the Senate, Harkin has been a forceful voice of populism. He said that his biggest achievement was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, a bipartisan measure he pushed for on behalf of his brother, Frank, who was deaf. He was also a leading proponent of overhauling the nation's health

care system.

Harkin sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 1992. But he has played a larger role in subsequent races for the White House as a fierce supporter of the Iowa caucuses that traditionally open the presidential campaign. Barack Obama, as a freshman senator from Illinois, made his Iowa debut at the state's marquee political event in 2006, the Harkin Steak Fry. The announcement from Harkin took some Democrats by surprise, particularly because he had not previously signaled his intentions and had a campaign account of nearly \$3 million. □

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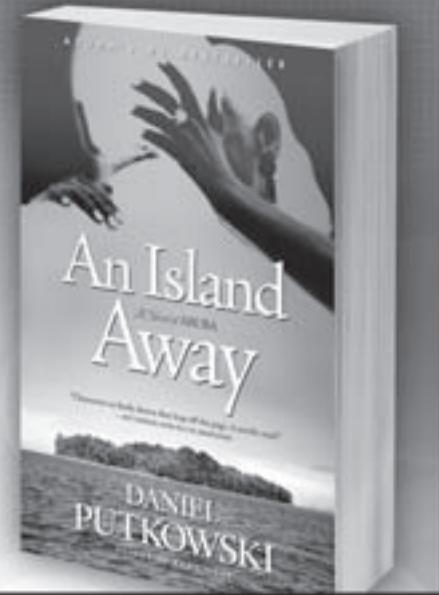
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Some New Yorkers embrace their inner-polar bears

LISA W. FODERARO

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NEW YORK — While many New Yorkers have been moaned the recent cold snap, with temperatures stuck in the 20s and below, some thick-skinned residents are actually celebrating the January freeze. And, really, what's not to like?

Ordinarily packed parks, like the High Line, suddenly have room to spare. Flowering bulbs remain where they belong this time of year, dormant below the frozen ground. Polar bears look happy. There is even the possibility of skating on natural ice: the Central Park Conservancy allows skating on the park's Conservatory Water once there is five to six inches of ice.

On the High Line on Thursday, Graeme Massie, a 35-year-old writer who lives nearby in Chelsea, walked briskly past planters of faded grasses with a friend visiting from England. Although the temperature was well below freezing, the wan winter light bouncing off the glass-clad apartment buildings created at least the illusion of warmth.

The park's winter environment is defined by the wild grasses, plant stalks and dried seed heads that are left standing, said Robert Hammond, co-founder of Friends of the High Line. "Unlike many gardeners, we don't cut any of the plants back in the fall," he said.

Another winter feature: Solitude. Last weekend,

Friends of the High Line counted 29,872 visitors, compared with more than four times as many on a typical weekend last August.

"We hear from neighbors that it's one of their favorite times," Hammond said, "because it means they have the park all to themselves."

Massie is one of those

Melissa Setubal, 33, who is from Brazil.

It wasn't only hardy people who seemed to relish the chill that swept down from the Arctic, giving the region an old-fashioned winter, with a low of 11 degrees Wednesday, rather than the July-at-Christmas version New York has seen of late. At the Bronx Zoo, the sprinkling of visi-

ant heat on a frigid day," he said.

In Central Park, starting last Sunday, snow-making equipment blew fake flakes across a 35,000-square-foot expanse of the park near 72nd Street to prepare for Saturday's planned Winter Jam, a celebration of snow sports. The city will make skis and snowboards available free

spokeswoman.

Sebastian Lieng, a 41-year-old transplant from Australia who lives on the Upper West Side, stopped by to see the snow in advance of the event. "It's ridiculously hot at the moment in Australia," he said, "and I enjoy the cold – the whole white Christmas, seasonal thing."

Lieng, who moved to New York a year ago, said he planned to bring his son, Santiago, 2, on Saturday. By then, the false mounds will probably be framed by real snow, expected to begin falling on Friday. "We've missed the snow," Lieng said.

Horticulturalists across the city were saying pretty much the same thing, and they seemed grateful that their charges were getting a period of sustained cold. "Without that, plants get confused," said Matthew Stephens, director of street-tree planting for the parks department.

"They have spent millions of years on this planet getting that cold winter nap that allows them to send sugars and carbohydrates back down to the roots. It's very necessary for their long-term health."

Melanie Sifton, vice president of horticulture and facilities at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, was also cheering on the freezing temperatures, which are expected to last for at least a few more days. And she hoped they might check the spread of pests like mealybugs and scale insects that are a bane of gardeners everywhere. □



A visitor walks through High Line park in New York during the recent cold snap. Some New York residents are enjoying the recent cold-snap in the city.

(Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

people. "It's so great to go for a stroll without being knocked down by a jogger or having to share it with 10,000 people," he said. "It's nice, except for the fact that I can't feel my toes or my nose."

Even tourists who braved the frosty gusts off the Hudson to ascend the steps of the High Line expressed relief at the lack of, well, tourists. "In summer, it's controlled chaos," noted

tors could be forgiven for imagining an extra spring in the snow leopard's step, a little more swing in those polar bears' strides.

James J. Breheny, the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo director, said that, like homo sapiens who don hats, scarves and long underwear, some animals develop their own strategies. "The Bronx Zoo's bison stand broadside to the sun to absorb its radi-

to those who want to try schussing down the newly manufactured moguls that rose and fell south of the park's band shell. Parks officials warmed to the cold, especially since the event was canceled last year because it was too warm. The year before that, it rained. "It has to be 28 degrees or below to make the snow, so this weather is absolutely perfect," said Tara Kiernan, a parks department

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Berlusconi defends Mussolini for "having done good"

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi praised Benito Mussolini for "having done good" despite the Fascist dictator's anti-Jewish laws, immediately sparking expressions of outrage as Europe on Sunday held Holocaust remembrances.

Berlusconi also defended Mussolini for allying himself with Hitler, saying he likely reasoned that it would be better to be on the winning side. The media mogul, whose conservative forces are polling second in voter surveys ahead of next month's election, spoke to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony in Milan to commemorate the Holocaust.

In 1938, before the outbreak of World War II, Mussolini's regime passed the so-called "racial laws," barring Jews from Italy's universities and many professions, among other bans. When Germany's Nazi regime occupied Italy during the war, thousands from the tiny Italian Jewish community were deported to death camps.

"It is difficult now to put oneself in the shoes of who was making decisions back then," Berlusconi said of Mussolini's support for Hitler. "Certainly the (Italian) government then, fearing that German power would turn into a general victory, preferred to be allied with Hitler's Germany rather than oppose it."

Berlusconi added that

"within this alliance came the imposition of the fight against, and extermination of, the Jews. Thus, the racial laws are the worst fault of Mussolini, who, in

so many other aspects, did good."

More than 7,000 Jews were deported under Mussolini's regime, and nearly 6,000 of them were killed.



Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, as Europe held solemn annual Holocaust remembrances.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

Outrage, along with a demand that Berlusconi be prosecuted for promoting Fascism, quickly followed his words. Among those voicing condemnation were prominent Jewish figures abroad. Mussolini "modeled his anti-Jewish laws after the Nazi Nuremberg Laws barring Jews from civil service," Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said in a statement.

"It is the height of revisionism to try to reinstate an Italian dictator who helped legitimize and prop up Hitler as a 'reincarnated good guy,'" said the rabbi, whose organization monitors anti-Semitic incidents worldwide.

Berlusconi's praise of Mussolini constitutes "an insult to the democratic conscience of Italy," said Rosy Bindi, a center-left leader.

□

In 3 provinces: Morsi declares state of emergency

Continued from front

"There is no going back on freedom, democracy and the supremacy of the law," he said.

The three provinces are Port Said, Ismailiya and Suez and the curfew, also for a month, is effective 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The worst violence this weekend was in the Mediterranean coastal city of Port Said,

where at least 44 people died in two days of clashes there that began on Saturday. The spark was a court conviction and death sentence for 21 defendants involved in a mass soccer riot in the city's main stadium on Feb. 1, 2012 that left 74 dead.

Most of those sentenced to death were local soccer fans from Port Said, deepening a sense of persecution that Port Said's residents have felt since the stadium disaster, the worst soccer violence ever in Egypt.

At least another 11 died on Friday elsewhere in the country during rallies marking the second anniversary of the uprising that toppled authoritarian President Hosni Mubarak. Protesters used the occasion to renounce Morsi and his Islamic fundamentalist group,

the Muslim Brotherhood, which emerged as the country's most dominant political force after Mubarak's ouster.

Morsi, in office since June,

also invited the nation's political forces to a dialogue starting Monday to resolve the country's latest crisis.

The predominantly secular and liberal opposition has in the past declined Morsi's offers of dialogue, arguing that he must first show a political will to meet some of its demands.

There was no official reaction to Morsi's moves by the National Salvation Front, an umbrella for the main opposition parties.

Some opposition figures, however, told TV talk shows that they would take part in the dialogue but only if it is run by independent third parties and if they receive assurances that its outcome would be binding on everyone. □

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Mali: French push to Timbuktu

STEVEN ERLANGER

LYDIA POLGREEN

© 2013 New York Times

PARIS — Malian forces backed by French troops were advancing Sunday toward the crucial northern town of Timbuktu as they begin to deploy in the rebel stronghold of Gao, French officials said.

Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault of France said in a statement that the French troops were "around Gao and soon near Timbuktu," farther west. Timbuktu has been under the control of rebels and Islamist fighters for 10 months, though there are reports that many of the Islamist fighters have moved farther into the vast desert.

The capture of the main strategic points on Saturday in Gao represented the biggest prize yet in the battle to retake the northern half of the country. The French Defense Ministry spokesman, Col. "The taking of control of Gao, which has between 50,000 and 60,000 inhabitants, by Malian, Chadian and Nigerian soldiers, is under way," Burkhard said. French airstrikes had

been pounding Gao since France joined the fight at Mali's request on Jan. 11. Gao, 600 miles northeast of Bamako, the capital, had been under the control of the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa, a splinter group of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Al-Jazeera broadcast a statement from al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb in which the group said it had withdrawn temporarily from some cities it held. □

More than 230 dead in Brazil nightclub blaze

SIMON ROMERO

© 2013 New York Times

RIO DE JANEIRO — A fire ignited by a flare from a live band's pyrotechnic spectacle swept through a nightclub filled with hundreds of university students early Sunday morning in Santa Maria, a city in southern Brazil, leaving at least 232 people dead, police

said security guards had locked the doors needed to exit the club, intensifying a panicked stampede to flee the blaze. Public security officials in Santa Maria said Sunday that emergency responders had counted at least 232 dead, down from a previous estimate of 245. Witnesses who survived the

Santa Maria, city of about 260,000 residents that is known for its cluster of universities.

Brazil is not alone in facing such a tragedy. The disaster ranks among the deadliest nightclub fires in recent memory, comparable to the 2003 blaze in Rhode Island that killed 100 people, a nightclub fire in 2004 in

clubs and bars to have customers to pay their entire tab upon leaving, instead of on a per-drink basis.

"It is a scene of horror," Elizabeth Shimomura, a police investigator who arrived at the nightclub Sunday, said in televised comment.

Indignation among some of the survivors on Sunday already pointed to a heated discussion over who was responsible for the tragedy.

"Only after a multitude pushed down the security guards did they see the crap they had done," said Murilo de Toledo Tiecher, 26, a medical student who survived the fire, in comments posted on Facebook.

Witnesses said the fire started around 2 a.m. after a rock band, Gurizada Fangangueira, began performing for an audience numbering in the hundreds, mostly students in the agronomy and veterinary medicine programs in a local university.

At least one member of the five-person band, which is based in Santa Maria and advertised its use of pyrotechnics in its own publicity materials, was reportedly killed in the fire. Many of the other victims died of smoke inhalation, according to emergency officials.

More broadly, the blaze may also focus attention on issues of accountability in Brazil, pointing to the disconnect between an economy on more solid footing and the relaxed enforcement of measures aimed at protecting citizens.

Preventable disasters still commonly claim lives in Brazil, as illustrated by Rio de Janeiro's building collapses, manhole explosions and trolley mishaps. □



A victim of a fire in a club is carried in Santa Maria city, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, early Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. According to police over 230 died in the devastating nightclub fire in southern Brazil. Officials say the fire broke out at the Kiss club in the city of Santa Maria while a band was performing. At least 200 people were also injured.

(AP Photo/Deivid Dutra/Agencia Freelancer)

officials said.

Throughout Sunday morning, health workers hauled bodies from the nightclub, called Kiss, to hospitals in Santa Maria. Some survivors were taken to the nearby city of Porto Alegre to be treated for burns. Valdeci Oliveira, a local legislator, said he saw piles of bodies in the nightclub's bathrooms after entering the venue with rescue workers. Col. Guido Pedroso de Melo, the commander of the city's fire department,

fire described a scene of mayhem inside the nightclub as patrons rushed for its main exit.

"I only got out because I am strong," Ezequiel Corte Real, 23, told reporters. He said he helped others escape the blaze as well. The disaster in Rio Grande do Sul, a relatively prosperous state in southern Brazil, sent shockwaves throughout the country. President Dilma Rousseff canceled appointments at a summit meeting in Chile to travel to

Buenos Aires in which 194 were killed and a fire at a club in China in 2000 that left 309 dead.

Still, the circumstances surrounding the blaze, from the use of pyrotechnics in a crowded nightclub to reports of locked exits, are also expected to raise questions as to whether the owners of the venue were negligent in the episode. While it is not clear why patrons were initially not allowed to escape, it is common across Brazil for night-

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CELAC-EU Summit:

EU demands 'legal certainty' of Latin investments

LUIS ANDRES HENAO

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A 60-nation summit wrapped up in Chile on Sunday with European leaders pleading for "legal certainty" and lower trade barriers between economies that together represent a billion people and about \$280 billion in bilateral trade.

Europe is the top direct investor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

But the flow of money across the Atlantic has slowed because of a European recession marked by record unemployment, austerity measures and mounting debts.

Adding to Europe's woes, companies from Spain, France and other once-dominant economies have been seized in recent years as Argentina, Bolivia and Venezuela seek to regain control over their re-

sources.

The Europeans' frustration was evident at the CELAC-EU summit.

European Commission

President Jose Manuel Barroso said sustainable development in the two continents, which collectively represent a third of

the world's nations and a fourth of the world's gross domestic product, cannot occur if shifting regulations make long-term invest-

ments too risky.

"It's true that Europe is the largest trading partner for Latin America. But it's also true that we're seeing an increase in Latin American investment in Europe, where they are most welcome," Barroso said.

"Both sides need to provide legal certainty to companies investing in our economies."

Chilean President Sebastian Pinera took a more optimistic tone, saying he feels his fellow leaders have strengthened a strategic alliance and that a slowdown in Europe has been offset by trade flowing from a booming Latin America.

"I'm fully convinced that we've taken a huge step forward," Pinera said.

"But it's not enough. Now it's time to act, to translate good intentions and agreements into results."

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy promised that the benefits of the EU's free-trade deals with Colombia, Peru and Central America will become evident this year.

He also expressed optimism about progress toward a long-delayed treaty dropping trade barriers with South America's Mercosur trade bloc, after securing promises from Brazil and Argentina to submit new proposals this year.

But President Cristina Fernandez tweeted that she won't agree to deal that exposes Argentine companies to unfair competition from more powerful European interests. □



Colombia's President Jose Manuel Santos, left, and Danish Minister for European Affairs Nicolai Wammen, right, speak during the closing ceremony of the CELAC-EU summit in Santiago, Chile, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Israel warns of attack on Syrian chemical weapons

IAN DEITCH

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel could launch a pre-emptive strike to stop Syria's chemical weapons from reaching Lebanon's Hezbollah or al-Qaida inspired groups, officials said Sunday.

The warning came as the military moved a rocket defense system to a main northern city, and Israel's premier warned of dangers from both Syria and Iran.

Israel has long expressed concerns that Syrian Presi-

dent Bashar Assad, clinging to power during a 22-month civil war, could lose control over his chemical weapons.

Vice Prime Minister Silvan Shalom said Sunday that Israel's top security officials held a special meeting last week to discuss Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

The fact of the meeting, held the morning after a national election, had not been made public before. Shalom told the Army Radio station that the transfer of weapons to violent

groups, particularly the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, would be a game changer.

"It would be crossing a line that would demand a different approach, including even action," he said. Asked whether this might mean a pre-emptive attack, he said: "We will have to make the decisions."

Israel has kept out of the civil war that has engulfed Syria and killed more than 60,000 people, but it is concerned that violence could spill over from its northern border into Israel.

Israel deployed its Iron Dome rocket defense system in the northern city of Haifa on Sunday.

The city was battered by Hezbollah rocket fire during a war in the summer of 2006.

The military called the deployment "routine." Iron Dome, an Israel-developed system that shoots down incoming short-range rockets, was used to defend Israeli cities during a round of hostilities with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, on Israel's southern flank, last November. □

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Paris streets mobbed by pro-gay marriage protesters

PARIS (AP) — Tens of thousands of people marched in Paris Sunday in support of a government-sponsored bill that would legalize marriage and adoption for same-sex couples.

Demonstrators waved banners emblazoned with phrases such as "Equality of rights is not a threat" as they began marching Sunday from Denfert-Rochereau square in the southern part of the city. The march drew 125,000 demonstrators into the streets, according to police. That was well above the number counted by police at a similar march in December, but far less than the estimated 340,000 that turned out for a demonstration by those opposed to the proposal two weeks ago. About 63 percent of French people favor legalizing gay marriage, according to a survey released Saturday, up from 60 percent in Decem-

ber. The French parliament is due to begin debate on the bill Tuesday and the bill is essentially guaranteed to pass the Socialist-dom-

inated parliament. If it is approved, France would become the 12th country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage. French

civil unions, allowed since 1999, are at least as popular among heterosexuals as among gay and lesbian couples.

But that law has no provisions for adoption or assisted reproduction, which are at the heart of the latest debate. □



People demonstrate for the government project to legalize same-sex marriage and adoption for same-sex couples, in Paris, France, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. (AP Photo/Benjamin Girette)

UK: Specific threat to Westerners in Somaliland

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British citizens should immediately leave the breakaway Somaliland region of Somalia because of a specific threat to Westerners, British diplomats said Sunday. It was the second such warning issued for an African region in just days and comes amid growing turbulence across the continent's north.

In a statement emailed to reporters, Britain's Foreign Office did not go into any further detail about the nature of the threat but noted that "kidnapping for financial or political gain, motivated by criminality or terrorism" is an issue throughout Somalia.

Somalia has endured years of civil war, and Britain

— along with the United States and a host of other countries — has long advised against all travel to the Horn of Africa nation. Sunday's travel warning applies specifically to the northwest territory of Somaliland, which declared its independence from Somalia in 1991 and has since been a haven of relative peace amid the chaos and bloodshed of the country's south.

Somaliland Foreign Minister Mohamed Abdulahi Omar told a news conference that his government has full confidence in its security. "We don't believe in that warning," he said. "We are informing the public and foreigners in our country that there's no security scares at all. But in general, terrorism is a worldwide

menace."

The new warning was issued only days after Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada urged their citizens in the Libyan city of Benghazi to evacuate in response to what was then described as an imminent threat to Westerners. European officials told The Associated Press at the time that schools were thought to be among the potential targets.

The exact reason for the warnings remains unclear, but they come at a time of heightened tension across north Africa. French and African land forces are battling al-Qaida-linked Islamists in northern Mali, while a renewed bout of unrest has gripped Egypt following the two-year anniversary of the revolution

that toppled strongman Hosni Mubarak.

In addition, a Jan. 16 attack on the Ain Amenas natural gas plant in the Sahara ignited a four-day siege by Algerian forces in which at least 37 hostages and 29 militants died. An al-Qaida-affiliated group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Libya also remains unstable following the overthrow of Libyan dictator Moammar Gad-

hafi.

It was unclear if any of those factors played a role in Britain's latest warning. The Foreign Office declined to comment beyond its brief statement. Somaliland, a former British colony, is a key ally for neighboring Ethiopia, which has an embassy in the enclave, and collaborates with the United States and its allies on anti-terrorism missions. □

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North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a consultative meeting with officials in the fields of state security and foreign affairs at undisclosed location in North Korea.

(AP Photo)

North Korean leader vowing strong action

HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un convened top security and foreign affairs officials and ordered them to take “substantial and high-profile important state measures,” state media said Sunday, fueling speculation that he plans to push forward with a threat to explode a nuclear device in defiance of the United Nations. The meeting of top officials led by Kim underscores Pyongyang’s defiant stance in protest of U.N. Security Council punishment for a December rocket launch. The dispatch in the official Korean Central News Agency did not say when the meeting took place.

Last week, the Security Council condemned North Korea’s Dec. 12 launch of a long-range rocket as a violation of a ban against nuclear and missile activity. The council, including North Korea ally China, punished Pyongyang with more sanctions and ordered the regime to refrain from a nuclear test — or face “significant action.” North Korea responded by rejecting the resolution

and maintaining its right to launch a satellite into orbit as part of a peaceful civilian space program. It warned that it would keep developing rockets and testing nuclear devices to counter what it sees as U.S. hostility. A rare statement was issued Thursday by the powerful National Defense Commission, the top governing body led by Kim. Kim’s order for firm action and the recent series of strong statements indicate he intends to conduct a nuclear test in the near future to show “he is a young yet powerful leader both domestically and internationally,” said Chin Hee-gwan, a North Korea expert at South Korea’s Inje University.

North Korea cites a U.S. military threat in the region as a key reason behind its drive to build nuclear weapons. The countries fought on opposite sides of the Korean War, which ended after three years in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty. The U.S.-led U.N. Command mans the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas, and Washington stations more than 28,000 troops in South Korea to protect its ally. □

Venezuela: Inmates moved after bloody prison riot

IAN JAMES
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan authorities on Sunday finished evacuating inmates from a prison where 61 were reported killed in one of the deadliest prison clashes in the nation’s history. Penitentiary Service Minister Iris Varela said in a message on Twitter that

pitted armed inmates against National Guard troops.

Dr. Ruy Medina, director of Central Hospital in the city, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the death toll had risen to 61, while about 120 were wounded in the violence.

Medina said that nearly all of the injuries were from gunshots and that 45 of the

get a grip on a worsening national crisis in its penitentiaries.

The gunbattles seized attention amid uncertainty about President Hugo Chavez’s future, while he remained in Cuba recovering and undergoing treatment more than six weeks after his latest cancer surgery.

Government officials



Venezuelan police officers stand guard outside the morgue where the bodies of prisoners killed in a riot were taken in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013. A clash between National Guard soldiers and armed inmates led to a deadly riot Friday that reportedly left dozens of people dead. According to a local hospital director the death toll has risen to 61 and 120 injured.

(AP Photo/Misael Castro/El Informador)

the evacuation of Uribana prison in the city of Barquisimeto was completed on Sunday morning.

Inmates were loaded aboard buses and driven to other prisons.

Varela posted photos of inmates filing out led by authorities, and said that what will come next for the prison is “now the reconstruction!”

Two days after the violence, government officials had yet to provide an official death toll from the fierce gunbattles, which

estimated 120 people who were wounded remained hospitalized.

Relatives wept outside the prison during the violence, and cried at the morgue as they waited to identify bodies.

The riot was the latest in a series of deadly clashes in Venezuela’s overcrowded and often anarchical prisons, where inmates typically obtain weapons and drugs with the help of corrupt guards.

Critics called it proof that the government is failing to

pledged a thorough investigation, while some critics said there should have been ways for the authorities to prevent such bloodshed.

The riot was the deadliest in nearly two decades. In January 1994, more than 100 inmates died in the country’s bloodiest prison violence on record when a riot and fire set by inmates tore through a prison in the western city of Maracaibo. In 1992, about 60 inmates were killed in a riot in a Caracas prison. □



AHATA attends CHATA's Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2013



Aruba Delegation meets with Expedia at Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2013. From top: Neville Every, Area Director North America ATA, Jim Hepple, CEO AHATA, Adwina Arends, Manager Coop Marketing North America ATA, Sanju Luidens, Chief Marketing officer ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes, CEO ATA meeting with Brett Minzer, Market Manager Latin America & Caribbean Ex-pedia, and Jeslian, Pettinari also of Expedia.



Buyers meet with Tiara Air and Manchebo Beach Resort at Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2013.



Buyer meeting with Ewald Biemans and Tisa LaSorte of Bucuti and Tara Beach resort at Caribbean Travel Marketplace 2013.

ORANJESTAD/BAHAMAS - AHATA, together with senior management of the ATA and many hoteliers and allied members from Aruba, attended the CHTA's annual Caribbean Travel Marketplace recently, held this year at Paradise Island in The Bahamas.

This year's event saw a total of 131 buyers from 20 different countries looking to meet with Caribbean hoteliers, airlines, destination management companies as well as tourist boards. Buyers came from as far afield as China, Russia, Poland, and Argentina as well as from more traditional source markets such as the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Scandinavia. On the supplier side there were 707 delegates representing 273 different Caribbean hotels, airlines, DMCs as well as tourist boards.

The Aruba delegation was comprised of ATA's senior management as well as Jim Hepple, President and CEO of AHATA, who met with 30 different companies over the two days to discuss current trends in the market as well as finalizing co-operative marketing programs for 2013.

The general feeling amongst most North American tour operators was that business was picking up and that Aruba could look forward to a good year from the USA and Canada. Tour operators from Europe were less positive citing the difficult economic climate in many countries.

The event was also attended by representatives from the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Bucuti and Tara Beach Resorts, Divi Resorts, Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, The Mill Resort, the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, the Aruba Holiday Inn Sunspree, the Aruba Hyatt, the Aruba Marriott, the Aruba Renaissance, Tierra del Sol, as well as De Palm Tours and Tiara Air. □

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Divi's Banquet & Events Dream Team looks forward to 2013



DIVI RESORTS - The recently recruited Inge Van Roon, Director of Banquet and Events Sales, The Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive & Divi Resorts, is now teamed up with Executive Chef Gerard Coste, to deliver the best events under the sun, in a variety of great locations, around Divi resort properties and beaches and at the Alhambra Casino & Shops. Both Dutch-born Inge and French-born Gerard are much-experienced veterans in the banquet and event field, and they both exude a "nothing too big or too small" attitude. The dynamic event planner and the creative chef are both well-prepared to deal with mega weddings, or small, intimate family gatherings. Conference, meetings, or award banquets, you name it, they have the perfect plan of action, from the get go.

The new Banqueting & Events Ballroom at the Alhambra Casino & Shop is their latest venue.

The ample space above the casino gaming floor, was transformed last year into a stylishly decorated ballroom with a seating capacity of 250 people theater-style.

For dinner banquets the room may be set up for 180 party-goers, and in the event that a dance floor is required, the room may accommodate up to 140 guests, around elegant round tables, for formal plated functions.

Most ballroom events take off with a champagne reception at Fusion, Piano & Wine Bar then guests may walk the red carpet to the elevator leading to the second floor ballroom.

A champagne intermezzo is also often offered in the ballroom foyer.

Some events opt to start at Fusion and continue at Ginger, the popular New Asian restaurant. With ample, easily accessible parking and a complete nighttime shopping mall, Alhambra can now host conventions and meetings offering guests a diverse array of events, from simple BBQs on the open air patio to elaborate celebratory

affairs.

Just across the lawn from the Alhambra Casino & Shops the Divi & Tamarijn All Inclusive Resorts are blessed with picturesque and tropical restaurants, bars, pool decks and beaches, which are perfectly-suited for small to medium-size events. The time-share resorts including Divi Village & Dutch Village offer special small and intimate venues while the elegant Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort on Palm Beach provides the perfect backdrop for any size party or banquet, including an indoor multi-function space for seminars or Holy Communions celebrations. All of the Divi venues are coordinated by Inge in her capacity as Director of Banquet and Event Sales. As clients consult Inge for their party needs, she relies on Executive Chef Gerard Costa and his Food & Beverage Department for creative collaboration.

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Pictured here, a variety of dream locations, and the dream team, Inge van Roon and Gerard Costa. □

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NOORD - The Caribbean Palm Village Resort hosted an entertaining Queen Election and Coronation, when it elected its Carnival Queen from among four fun-loving candidates, all

of whom are repeat-guests, Ann Yorks, from Maine, Gwen Mighon from Ontario, Canada, Sherryl Johnson, from South Carolina, and Liz Hauge from Minnesota. Joyful Gertrude

"Nina" Pitti, from New York, last year's Carnival Queen joined the festivities, as a the lifelong honorary Queen of Queens.

The contest was presided by, no less than the Aruban Carnival Foundation president, Tekla Kelly, and two other local personalities in addition to Sharla Kelly, of ABC Tours.

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consisting of resort guests and the candidates had a great time!

The winner received a crown and a sash, a gift certificate to Scabeche restaurant, a flower arrangement and a bottle of champagne. Madeleine's Beauty Salon contributed greatly to creative make-up, hair and costume requirements.

The Caribbean Palm Vil-

lage Resort is concluding a yearlong 25th anniversary. The quarter of a century milestone of the charming vacation village inspired by South Beach Florida, and the art deco district is the cause for weekly celebrations under the guidance of general manager Astrid Muller.

Pictured here Queen Gwen crowded at the Caribbean Palm Village. □



Woods in command at Torrey Pines

Tiger Woods points to the right rough after teeing off on the fourth hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open PGA golf tournament Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, in San Diego.

Associated Press



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Roundup



Boston Celtics' Rajon Rondo (9) drives to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Tyler Zeller (40) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Celts top Heat 100-98 in 2 OT; Rondo out for year

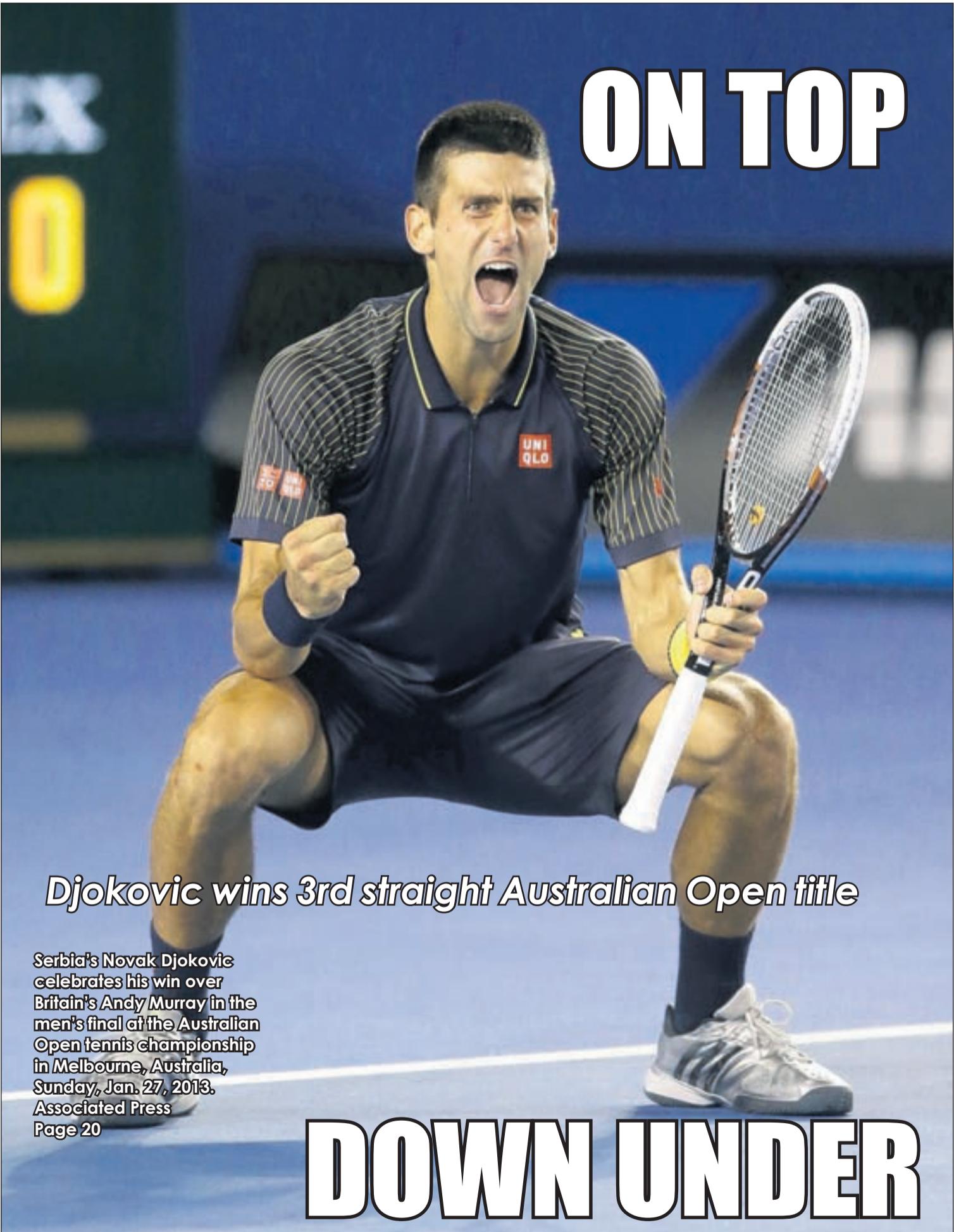
By HOWARD ULMAN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) -- A double-overtime victory against LeBron James and the defending NBA champions was difficult to celebrate for Paul Pierce and the Celtics. News of Rajon Rondo's season-ending knee injury spoiled the party. "Everyone was really happy for the win," Pierce said after Boston beat the Miami Heat 100-98 Sunday. "It brought a dark cloud in this room when you heard the news." When coach Doc Rivers told his players after the game, the joy of ending their six-game losing streak stopped, even if they had just outlasted the team with the best record in the Eastern Conference, which came in with a four-game winning streak.

Continued on Page 19



ON TOP



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates his win over Britain's Andy Murray in the men's final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

Associated Press
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DOWN UNDER

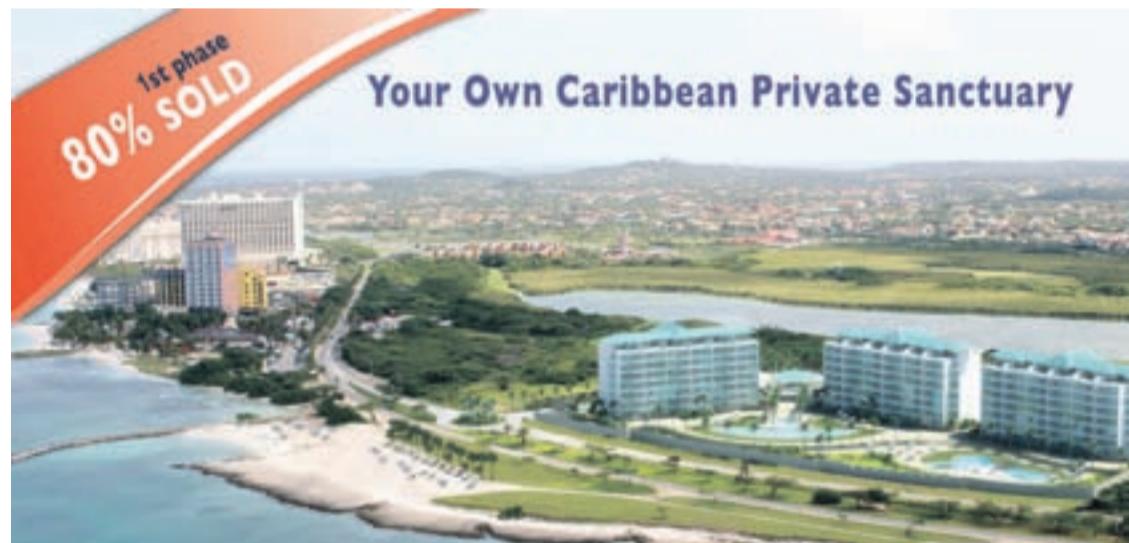


Tiger Woods hits out of a bunker on the 18th hole during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at the Torrey Pines Golf Course, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, in San Diego.

Associated Press

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Tiger Woods builds a 4-shot lead at Torrey

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The fog listed Sunday and revealed a familiar sight: Tiger Woods in command at Torrey Pines.

Despite finishing with a bogey on the easiest hole of the back nine, Woods began to pull away from the field with a 3-under 69 in the third round to build a four-shot lead in the Farmers Insurance Open. Woods has only lost twice on the PGA Tour in 40 previous times that he has held the outright lead through 54 holes.

Because fog wiped out all of Saturday, players were

going as long as daylight allowed before returning Monday to complete the tournament. Woods, who was at 14-under 202, was likely to get in about six holes before darkness, and he didn't bother switching to a red shirt for the start of the final round.

Brad Fritsch, a PGA Tour rookie from Canada, had a 70 and was at 206. Erik Compton finished birdie-eagle for a 71 and was alone in third, five shots behind.

Asked about trying to chase Woods, Compton started laughing.

"I'm trying to chase myself," he said.

Woods has won seven times at Torrey Pines as a pro, including a U.S. Open, and another win Monday would give him the most wins on any course.

The tournament staff followed the final group along the back nine, ready to change the hole locations to get ready for the final round. Players had about 30 minutes to get something to eat and hit a few balls before going right back out. Woods had superb control of his tee shots and was rarely out of position on a day that began under a light drizzle and soon gave way to patchy clouds and clear views of the Pacific surf below the bluffs. Starting with a two-shot lead, he stretched that quickly with a tap-in birdie on the second hole and a beautiful tee shot to a left pin on the downhill par 3 to about 4 feet. The South Course played even longer with the soft conditions, and only seven players broke 70. Aaron Baddeley had the lowest score of the round with a 68.

Woods managed to stretch his lead with pars, though he was always on the attack because of his position in the fairway.

He missed a downhill birdie putt from 4 feet on the par-5 ninth, and then came back with a wedge that landed near the hole at

No. 10 and spun back next to the cup before it settled 4 feet away for a birdie putt that he made.

He led by as many as six strokes until Fritsch birdied the last hole and Woods, playing in the group behind, ran into trouble. His tee shot rolled up near the lip of the bunker, and he advanced it 70 yards into deep rough. He swung hard through the thick, wet grass into a greenside bunker, and then missed his 8-foot par putt.

Still, it was an ominous sign. One week after he missed the cut in Abu Dhabi — thanks to a two-shot penalty he received after his ground for taking relief from an embedded lie on the fifth hole when the rules didn't allow for it — he looked good as ever.

Woods has a 49-4 record on the PGA Tour when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, and it's even more daunting when the lead is his alone. The only two players to come from behind to beat him over the final 18 holes were Ed Fiori in the Quad City Classic in 1996 when Woods was a 20-year-old rookie, and Y.E. Yang in the 2009 PGA Championship a Hazeltine. In worldwide events, Thomas Bjorn (Dubai), Lee Westwood (Germany) and Graeme McDowell (Target World Challenge) have made up deficits against him on the last day.

"I played well. I played really, really well," Woods said after his third round. "It seemed like I was always in pretty good position."

He was in the rough off the tee only five times in the third round, though always at the right angle to approach the green. On his only other bogey, he missed the green by about a foot and his chip came out hot and ran some 7 feet by the hole.

Because of the quick turnaround, Fritsch didn't play in the final group with Woods despite being the closest player to him. □



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Continued from Page 17

Now the Celtics must try to keep winning without their leader, who suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee late in Friday night's 123-112 win, also in double overtime, in Atlanta.

They won Sunday after Pierce's 22-foot jumper with 31 seconds left gave them a 99-98 lead.

But making the playoffs got harder as the Celtics try to hang on to the eighth and final postseason spot in the conference with a 2 1-2-game lead over the Philadelphia 76ers.

"Obviously, the Rondo news is pretty tough. I knew it before the game," Rivers said. "I just didn't think it was any time to tell any of our guys."

This game was the first in Boston for Ray Allen since he left the Celtics after five seasons and signed as a free agent with Miami. He scored 21 points.

Kevin Garnett had 24 points and 11 rebounds, and Pierce added 17 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for the Celtics.

Rondo's injury "puts this team and the rest of the guys in a position to be ready to step up," Pierce said. Sunday's win "was a perfect example. We showed we are capable." James had 34 points for the Heat, whose winning streak stopped at four.

"As much as I've been a rival with Boston over the years, I never want to see anyone go down," James said. "It's terrible, not only for their team but for the league."

After Pierce's basket, James had a chance to put the Heat ahead but missed a 12-foot jumper with 6.8 seconds to go from the left with defender Jeff Green jumping out at him.

Pierce got the rebound and was fouled by Shane Battier.

He sank the first shot. Then, as a fan shouted "This one's for Rondo," he missed the second.

Miami had one last chance, but Battier missed a long jumper at the buzzer.

"They defended that very well," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

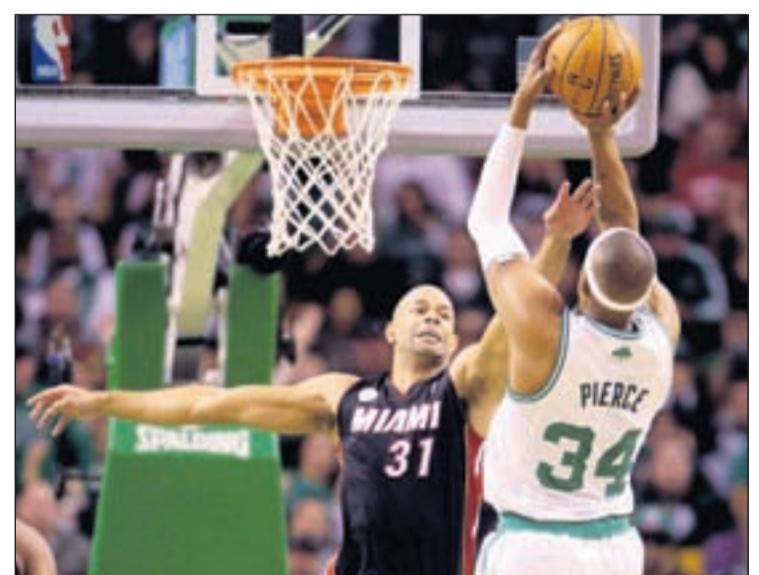
"There are about three different options to it, four different options to it. They defended each one of them."

The Heat also could have won in the first overtime, but Dwyane Wade, who had 17 points, also missed a long jumper as the buzzer sounded. They had led 93-89 after consecutive baskets by James, but Garnett hit a layup with 1:45 remaining and a shot from the right baseline with 1:14

to go.

Boston could have avoided the first overtime when Pierce inbounded from behind his backboard with two seconds left to Jason Terry. But Terry's shot from the top of the key was short. The Heat had tied it on a 3-pointer by James with seven seconds remaining in regulation after Allen missed a 3-pointer from the left corner with 15 seconds to go.

Rivers did not mention Rondo's injury in his meeting with reporters about an hour before the game, but Courtney Lee started in his place. Doctors decided to keep Rondo out of the game after he went through his normal pre-game routine but complained of pain that he thought was in his hamstring. An MRI was done and team physician Dr.



Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) shoots over Miami Heat forward Shane Battier (31) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game at TD Garden in Boston, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013. The Celtics won 100-98 in double overtime.

Associated Press

Brian McKeon learned the results during the game.

Allen was part of the Big Three with Pierce and Garnett starting in 2007-08. In their first season together,

Boston won its 17th NBA championship. He played against the Celtics once before this season, a 120-107 Heat win in Miami in the opener. □

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Djokovic completes Australian Open hat trick

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— No shirt ripping or bare-chested flexing this time. Novak Djokovic completed his work before midnight, defeating Andy Murray in four sets for his third consecutive Australian Open title and fourth overall.

It was also the second time in three years Djokovic had beaten his longtime friend in this final. So the celebration was muted: a small victory shuffle, raised arms, a kiss for the trophy. No grand histrionics, although that's not to say the moment was lost on him.

"Winning it three in a row, it's incredible," Djokovic said after his 6-7 (2), 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2 victory Sunday night. "It's very thrilling. I'm full of joy right now. It's going to give me a lot of confidence for the rest of the season, that's for sure."

Nine other men had won consecutive Australian titles in the Open era, but none three straight years. One of them was Andre Agassi, who presented Djokovic with the trophy. A year ago, Djokovic began his season with an epic 5-hour, 53-minute five-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic, right, is presented with the trophy by former Australian Open champion Andre Agassi after defeating Britain's Andy Murray, center, in the men's final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

set win over Rafael Nadal at the Australian Open, the longest Grand Slam final. He tore off his shirt to celebrate, the TV replays repeated constantly at this tournament.

He mimicked that celebration after coming back to beat Stanislas Wawrinka in five hours in a surprisingly tough fourth-round victory this time.

Since then, he's looked every bit the No. 1 player. He said he played "perfectly" in his 89-minute win over fourth-seeded David Ferrer

in the semifinals Thursday night. Murray struggled to beat 17-time major winner Roger Federer in five sets in the semifinals Friday night, and still had the bad blisters on his feet to show for it in the final.

In a final that had the makings of a classic when two of the best returners in tennis were unable to get a break of serve in the first two sets that lasted 2:13, the difference may have hinged on something as light as a feather.

Preparing for a second

serve at 2-2 in the second set tiebreaker, Murray was rocking back about to toss the ball when he stopped, paused and then walked onto the court and tried to grab a small white feather that was floating in his view. He went back to the baseline, bounced the ball another eight times and served too long.

After being called for a double-fault, Murray knocked the ball away in anger and flung his arm down. He didn't get close for the rest of the tiebreaker and was the first to drop serve in the match — in the eighth game of the third set. Djokovic broke him twice in the fourth set, which by then had turned into an easy march to victory. "It was strange," said Djokovic, adding that it swung the momentum his way. "It obviously did. ... He made a crucial double-fault." Murray didn't blame his loss on the one distraction. "I mean, I could have served. It just caught my eye before I served. I thought it was a good idea to move it," he said. "Maybe it wasn't because I obviously double-faulted."

"You know, at this level it can come down to just a

few points here or there. My biggest chance was at the beginning of the second set — didn't quite get it. When Novak had his chance at the end of the third, he got his."

Djokovic had five break-point chances in the opening set, including four after having Murray at 0-40 in the seventh game, but wasn't able to convert any of them. Then he surrendered the tiebreaker with six unforced errors. Murray appeared to be the stronger of the two at the time. He'd beaten Djokovic in their last Grand Slam encounter, the U.S. Open final, and had the Serb so off balance at times in the first set that he slipped to the court and took skin off his knee. Murray held serve to open the second set and had three break points at 0-40 in the second game, but Djokovic dug himself out of trouble and held.

"After that I felt just mentally a little bit lighter and more confident on the court than I've done in the first hour or so," Djokovic said. "I was serving better against him today in the first two sets than I've done in any of the match in the last two years." □

Pruett ties Haywood's record at Daytona

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP)

— Humbled a year ago when both its cars failed to make the podium, Chip Ganassi Racing made amends by winning the Rolex 24 at Daytona on Sunday for its fifth victory in ten years. An eyebrow-raising lineup change that involved Juan Pablo Montoya showed just how serious the team was about winning, and it delivered in the prestigious sports car race. The victory was the fifth for lead driver Scott Pruett, tying Hurley Haywood's record for wins in the twice-around-the-clock race at Daytona International Speedway.

"Having gotten to know Hurley real well over the years by racing with him

and just as a friend, and to have him there at the end was pretty special," Pruett said.

The winning team of three-time defending Grand-Am drivers Pruett and Memo Rojas, along with Montoya and IndyCar driver Charlie Kimball, making his Rolex debut, beat the Max Angelelli-led VelocityWW team by almost 22 seconds. It was Montoya who closed out the win, driving the final stint and waging a strong battle in the final hour with defending champion A.J. Allmendinger. Ganassi's No. 01 BMW Riley had a clear horsepower advantage, and once Montoya got past Allmendinger, the win was his for the taking. But the Ganassi team figured it was four laps short on fuel, and Montoya



Driver's Memo Rojas, left, of Mexico, and Scott Pruett celebrate next to the championship trophy after winning Grand-Am Series Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

needed to build a lead of at least 40 seconds to hold off Angelelli and Allmendinger when he was forced to stop for gas. The Colombian did it by turning laps close to qualifying pace,

and breezed to his third Rolex victory. "It was a lot of pressure; I thought we have a decent lead, we're just going to go out there and ride for two and a half hours," Montoya said. "And then you realize there's a caution and another caution and another caution, and with the way the rules are and the speed the car had, it's like you didn't want to get into a ... contest with anybody. You had to be smart about when you passed them. "We were kind of concerned about the (Shank) car, what they were going to do with fuel because they told me they could make it until the end and that we were going to have to push, and we pushed like crazy and opened up a hell of a gap. It was fun." Montoya's other two wins were with Pruett on the No. 01 car in 2007 and 2008, but he spent the last three years driving for the No. 02 Ganassi "star car" and came away empty-handed each time. □



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Ray Lewis more focused on 49ers than retirement

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland

(AP) — For weeks, no one could determine when The Ray Lewis Retirement Tour would draw to a close.

Since Lewis announced on Jan. 2 his "last ride" in the NFL would coincide with the end of the Baltimore Ravens' playoff run, there was the possibility that each game would be his last.

Now, after successful stops in Denver and New England, there is no longer any doubt: Win or lose, Lewis will perform for the final time on Feb. 3, in New Orleans on the NFL's grandest stage.

It wouldn't be surprising if Lewis approached the Super Bowl with a feeling of finality, but the 37-year-old middle linebacker insisted this week that he's thinking only about helping the Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers.

"Honestly, outside of putting my head in the playbook and studying San Fran, I really haven't thought about anything else," Lewis said.

"It's going to be a great day, period, no matter what happens. And that's kind of the way I've approached it," he said. "I haven't even said, 'Oh man, this is your last game, what do you think?' I really haven't. Because I just really am keeping my teammates focused on the real prize."

Now in his 17th season, Lewis is preparing for his second Super Bowl — the first in 12 years. The last time he played for the NFL championship, Lewis earned MVP honors in Baltimore's 34-7 win over the New York Giants.

After waiting all this time to get back, Lewis has no

intention of merely settling for being part of the big game.

"The real prize is actually going and winning the Super Bowl," he said. "It's great to get there, don't get me wrong, but to win it is something special."

And then, only then, Lewis will think about what it means to walk off the gridiron for the final time.

"You feel that confetti drop, I'll probably reflect then, when I'm there," he said. "But, it really hasn't crossed my mind like that." San Francisco inside linebacker Patrick Willis, who wears No. 52, has nothing but admiration for Baltimore's No. 52.

"I'm just a big fan of him, period," Willis said. "Just his enthusiasm on the field, the passion he plays with. I've always been a big fan of those who play with passion, such as Ray Lewis. I know people always want to make comparisons and talk about torches and all this. At the end of the day, I always say I can only be the best player I can be."

"As a fellow linebacker, being at the Pro Bowl and being able to be coached by the same coach (Mike Nolan) at one point in time in our careers, we've become friends. Ray's one of those guys, he loves to give his wisdom and give his knowledge, and I'm the type that I love to listen." Lewis has been with the Ravens since 1996, and it wasn't long after his arrival that he became the captain of the defense. As his career went on, he lost a step but made up for it with tireless film study and sharp instincts.

After his rookie year, the only time Lewis didn't get a Pro Bowl invitation were those seasons when he was beset by injury — 2002,



Baltimore Ravens inside linebacker Ray Lewis celebrates near the end of the NFL football AFC Championship football game against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

2005 and 2012.

Last year he received his 13th Pro Bowl nod despite missing four games with a foot injury. This season, after tearing his right triceps on Oct. 14, there was a strong possibility he wouldn't be back.

At first, the Ravens believed he was done for the year. But Lewis vowed to return, and his teammates were determined to make it happen.

"We knew we wanted to make the playoffs in order for Ray to have a chance to come back," safety Ed Reed said. "He's that engine, that motor that's going to go all the time. He understands what the offense is trying to do to you when you're talking about the run game. He's calling out plays before they even happen. That's what you really miss when Ray is out." Since his return, Lewis has 44 tackles in three games. He isn't limping into retirement; rather, he's headed out with a flourish. □

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Lung cancer an equal opportunity threat

M. MARCHIONE

AP Chief Medical Writer

U.S. women who smoke today have a much greater risk of dying from lung cancer than they did decades ago, partly because they are starting younger and smoking more — that is, they are lighting up like men, new research shows. Women also have caught up with men in their risk of dying from smoking-related illnesses. Lung cancer risk leveled off in the 1980s for men but is still rising for women.

"It's a massive failure in prevention," said one study leader, Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society. And it's likely to repeat itself in places like China and Indonesia where smoking is growing, he said. About 1.3 billion people worldwide smoke. The research is in the most recent New England Journal of Medicine. It is one of the most comprehensive looks ever at long-term trends in the effects of smoking and includes the first generation of U.S. women who started early in life and continued for decades, long enough for health effects to show up. Among the findings of the recent studies:

— The risk of dying of lung cancer was more than 25 times higher for female smokers in recent years than for women who never smoked. In the 1960s, it was only three times higher. One reason: After World War II, women started taking up the habit at a younger age and began smoking more.

— A person who never smoked was about twice as likely as a current smoker to live to age 80. For women, the chances of surviving that long were 70 percent for those who never smoked and 38 percent

for smokers. In men, the numbers were 61 percent and 26 percent.

— Smokers in the U.S. are three times more likely to die between ages 25 and 79 than non-smokers are. About 60 percent of those deaths are attributable to smoking.

— Women are far less likely to quit smoking than men are. Among people 65 to 69, the ratio of former to current smokers is 4-to-1 for men and 2-to-1 for women. — Smoking shaves more than 10 years off the average life span, but quitting at any age buys time. Quitting by age 40 avoids nearly all the excess risk

non-cancer lung deaths, researchers write. Most smokers switched to cigarettes that were lower in tar and nicotine as measured by tests with machines, "but smokers inhaled more deeply to get the nicotine they were used to," Thun said. Deeper inhalation is consistent with the kind of lung damage seen in the illnesses that are rising, he said.

Smoking needs more attention as a health hazard, Dr. Steven A. Schroeder of the University of California, San Francisco, wrote in a commentary in the journal. "More women die of lung cancer than of breast can-



New research published in the New England Journal of Medicine finds that women who smoke today have a much greater risk of dying from lung cancer than they did decades ago.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

of death from smoking. Men and women who quit when they were 25 to 34 years old gained 10 years; stopping at ages 35 to 44 gained 9 years; at ages 45 to 54, six years; at ages 55 to 64, four years.

— The risk of dying from other lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis is rising in men and women, and the rise in men is a surprise because their lung cancer risk leveled off in 1980s.

Changes in cigarettes since the 1960s are a "plausible explanation" for the rise in

cer. But there is no 'race for the cure' for lung cancer, no brown ribbon" or high-profile advocacy groups for lung cancer, he wrote. Kathy DeJoseph, 62, of suburban Atlanta, finally quit smoking after 40 years — to qualify for lung cancer surgery last year.

"I tried everything that came along, I just never could do it," even while having chemotherapy, she said.

It's a powerful addiction, she said: "I still every day have to resist wanting to go buy a pack." □



The medical world is in agreement that sleep is important. More and more studies show that chronic lack of sleep is linked to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and decreased mental health.

(Handout Photo)

Sleep For Your Health

Marjie Gilliam

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- We hear a lot about the effects of diet and exercise on health, but adequate sleep plays an equally important role. Studies show that chronic lack of sleep is linked to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and decreased mental health. The less rest and recovery your body gets, the weaker your immune system becomes.

Studies show that sleep deprivation can also affect the body's response to vaccines. When the immune system is suppressed, the bodies' response is slower to build up sufficient antibodies to fight off disease.

Despite growing awareness of the importance of getting enough shut-eye,

more than 30 percent of U.S. adults get fewer than the recommended seven to eight hours a night.

Experts suggest these tried and true tips for a good night's sleep:

Avoid substances that contain caffeine, such as chocolate, coffee, teas and soft drinks, as well as nicotine and alcohol too close to bedtime. If you do have caffeine, try to make sure it is no closer than six hours before you plan to go to sleep.

Alcohol is a depressant

that not only interferes with deeper stages of sleep, but relaxes muscles in the throat, increasing chances of snoring and breathing problems. Nicotine is a stimulant, raising blood pressure and elevating the heart rate. Taking sleeping pills on a regular basis can also interfere with sleep cycles, and may create dependency.

Try to establish a regular schedule for going to bed and waking up. Your body functions at its best when set patterns and routines are followed. By adjusting your "time clock" you will be more likely to fall asleep quicker and sleep more soundly.

Set aside the last hour or so of the day as your time to unwind and relax. This will calm you down, and help you to avoid thoughts associated with stressful events of the day.

Keep your bedroom as comfortable, dark and quiet as possible. If you are a light sleeper, try using "white noise" or very soft, soothing music to mask other sounds that might normally wake you up. A firm, supportive mattress and fresh clean sheets can make all the difference.

If you've tried everything and you still can't fall asleep, don't fight it. □

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Providence theater experiments with 'tweet seats'

ERIKA NIEDOWSKI

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — Sarah Bertness slipped into her seat at a recent staging of the musical "Million Dollar Quartet" and, when the lights dimmed, started doing something that's long been taboo inside theaters: typing away at her iPhone.

The 26-year-old freelance writer from Providence wasn't being rude. She had a spot in the "tweet seat" section at the Providence Performing Arts Center. The downtown theater is now setting aside a small number of seats — in the back — for those who promise to live-tweet from the performance using a special hash tag. They might offer impressions of the set, music or costumes, lines of dialogue that resonate with them or anything else that strikes them, really.

At "Million Dollar Quartet," based on the true story of a 1956 recording session that united music greats Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, PPAC for the first time had cast members tweeting from backstage, too.

A growing number of theaters, including some on Broadway, have been experimenting in recent years with tweet seats and other real-time uses of social media as they try to figure out the relationship between the stage and the smartphone.

Some insist the theater should remain a sacred, technology-free place and that allowing the use of phones during a show — even discreetly — only serves as a potential distraction for other patrons. But others say theaters can't afford not to engage

the digital generation, and that the way performances were once enjoyed, in a vacuum, doesn't hold up anymore.

"I think that it's important that PPAC and cultural institutions in general kind of jump on the social media bandwagon and learn to engage a broader audience," said Bertness, who runs the blog The Rhode Islander and is such a big Johnny Cash fan that she showed up to the performance wearing all black. "I think it's such a valuable tool."

Scott Moreau, an understudy for the role of Johnny Cash, hadn't ever tweeted from backstage during a performance. He tried to provide a glimpse of what life's like on the tour, which he likened to the special features on a DVD. He said he enjoyed getting instant feedback from the tweeters — feedback he shared with other cast members.

"It makes it feel a lot more personal," Moreau said. A picture of Moreau that



Amanda Fischer, from left, Justin Wermes, and his brother Trey Wermes, Tweet during a Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra performance in Cincinnati on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011.

Associated Press

was tweeted out from backstage — he was tweeting in it himself — prompted someone in the tweet seats to declare that's what the Man in Black would have looked like, with an iPhone. Other theaters are also trying different digital ways to engage with patrons. In Boston, the Huntington Theater plans to introduce

a "Twittermission" where an artist affiliated with the production, or someone from the theater's staff, answers questions about the show on Twitter during intermissions. The tweets will also be projected on screens in the theater lobby, according to spokeswoman Rebecca Curtiss.

The theater won't be introducing tweet seats, though.

"We feel strongly that the experience that an audience member has in our

theater should be limited to what they are seeing on the stage," Curtiss said. "When the lights go down and the show begins, we want the art on stage to speak for itself."

PPAC isn't sure yet whether any social media buzz generated by those in the tweet seats will have a measurable effect at the box office. But spokeswoman P.J. Prokop said the theater intends to keep the program through the end of the year, and then evaluate it. Those who sit in the tweet seats get their tickets for free.

Kirsten DiChiappari, who has tweeted three shows there to her nearly 1,400 followers, grew up in New Jersey going to Broadway musicals, plays and the opera. The 41-year-old social media consultant from Bristol sees her live-tweeting as a way to lure people from their living rooms, where many are glued to "horrible reality television."

"It's kind of a way to tease people back to support the live arts, the real arts, the original arts," she said. "I feel like once they go, they'll go again." □

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A new U.S. housing boom? Don't count on it

ROBERT J. SHILLER

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We're beginning to hear noises that we've reached a major turning point in the housing market — and that, with interest rates so low, this is a rare opportunity to buy. But are such observations on target?

It would be comforting if they were. Yet the unfortunate truth is that the tea leaves don't clearly suggest any particular path for prices, either up or down. On the one hand, there were sharp price increases in 2012, with the S&P/Case-Shiller 20-City Index, which I helped devise, up a total of 9 percent over the six months from March to September. That comes after what was generally a decline in prices for five consecutive years. And while prices dropped very slightly in October, the trend was quite encouraging for the market. (Our November data come out Tuesday.) But some of these changes were seasonal. Home prices have tended to rise every midyear and to fall slightly every fall and winter. And for some unknown reason, seasonal effects have become more pronounced since the financial crisis. After screening

out these effects, a number of indicators are up, including data for housing starts and permits as well as the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Index of traffic of prospective homebuyers, which has made a spectacular rebound since last spring.

What might explain this picture? It's hard to pin down, because nothing drastically different occurred in the economy from March to September. Yes, there was economic improvement: The unemployment rate, for example, dropped to 7.8 percent from 8.2 per-

cent. But that extended a trend in place since 2009. There was also a decline in foreclosure activity, but for the most part that is also a continuing trend, as reported by RealtyTrac.

And, last spring, along with Karl Case of Wellesley College and Anne Thompson

of McGraw-Hill Construction, I conducted a detailed survey of the attitudes of recent home buyers in four U.S. cities. We did not see any evidence of increased optimism. In short, it is hard to find an exact cause for the rebound in home prices. But that isn't unusual — we hardly ever know the real causes of major changes in speculative prices. Yet we do know that any short-run increase in inflation-adjusted home prices has been virtually worthless as an indicator of where home prices will be going over the next five or more years. Most experts are not predicting any big change in home prices. As of December, the Zillow-Pulsenomics Home Price Expectations Survey, which involves more than 100 forecasters, and the S&P Case/Shiller Composite Index Futures were both forecasting modest increases for the next half-decade, implying inflation-adjusted price growth of 1 to 2 percent a year. The bottom line for potential home buyers or sellers is probably this: Don't do anything dramatic or difficult. There is too much uncertainty to justify any aggressive speculative moves right now. If you have personal reasons for getting into or out of the housing market, go ahead. Otherwise, don't stay up worrying about home prices any more than you do about stock prices.

I can't offer any clearer picture, and I don't see a solid basis for anyone else to do so, either. □



Despite noises about a turning point in the housing market, the data don't suggest any particular path for future prices.
 (Minh Uong/The New York Times)

Report: McKee Foods seeking Hostess' Drake's brand

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A published report says McKee Foods Corp. is offering to pay between \$25 million to \$30 million to acquire the Drake's brand from Hostess Brands Inc. The report this weekend in The Wall Street

Journal cited unnamed people familiar with the negotiations between the two packaged food companies. McKee, based in Collegedale, Tennessee, makes Little Debbie snack cakes. Hostess, based in Irving, Texas, is filling bids for

its brands in stages after announcing in November plans to close its business. The bids set a floor for an auction process that lets rivals make better offers. Hostess said Friday that it expects to unveil a bidder for Drake's snack cakes,

which include Devil Dogs and Yodels, next week. McKee spokesman Mike Gloekler declined to comment on the report Saturday. An email and phone call to a Hostess representative was not immediately returned. □

Apple might be big, but it isn't a bellwether

JEFF SOMMER

© 2013 New York Times

The rise of Apple shares over the past few years was meteoric. Their fall over past few days has been traumatic. But these gyrations might not matter much to the overall stock market.

They will matter, of course, if you lost money as Apple dropped from \$702 in September to \$439.88 Friday. And the company's struggles might be of more than passing interest even if you never intend to own any of its shares.

Apple remains a colossus, even if Exxon Mobil surpassed it as the most valuable publicly traded company in the world Friday, exactly one year after iPhone sales propelled Apple to the top spot. Still, all of those iPhones, iPads and other gadgets make Apple matter in many households.

But the company's influence on the stock market is another question. Aside from the drag that Apple's decline has imposed on indexes that include it, its recent travails haven't affected other stocks very much, and they don't provide much information about the market as a whole. That's the view of Paul Hickey, co-founder of the Bespoke Investment Group, who has some statistics to support it.

"The company just isn't

the market bellwether," he said.

In good times and bad, Apple has largely gone its own way, and the rest of the market hasn't followed its lead. Apple isn't nearly as influential as, say, IBM, which appears to be the true market bellwether, Hickey contends.

IBM is the market leader – the stock that other stocks follow – based on

500's direction 75 percent of the time. That's the highest percentage for any stock in the index over that period. The comparable figure for Apple is only 37.5 percent.

If those tendencies continue – and that's a big "if" – bulls have reason to cheer. Both companies issued earnings reports last week, and they received very different reactions in

market reaction was brutal. Apple's guidance for 2013 disappointed analysts – its profit was flat although its revenue grew – and its shares fell more than 12 percent Thursday. But Apple isn't a bellwether, Hickey says. Its earnings reports and its returns the next day have not matched the market's subsequent five-week direction with any regularity.



In good times and bad, Apple's stock has often gone its own way, but I.B.M., whose market value isn't as high, still appears to have more influence on the overall market.

(Anthony Freda/The New York Times)

Bespoke's calculations, which are boiled down into one statistic. That is the likelihood that a stock's return on the day after its quarterly earnings report matches the direction of the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index over the next five weeks.

Over the past decade, for example, the rise or fall of IBM stock on the day after the company reports earnings has matched the S&P

the market. After the close of trading on Tuesday, IBM reported rising profits on a modest decline in revenue, and the market reaction was strikingly positive. IBM shares rose 4.4 percent Wednesday. If IBM is the market bellwether, it implies that over the next five weeks, the overall market is likely to rise.

Apple, on the other hand, reported earnings after hours Wednesday, and the

Looking at the short term, Apple shares have often moved quite independently of the rest of the market, too. On Thursday, for example, the S&P 500 was flat for the day despite the steep drop of Apple, which accounts for more than 3 percent of the index. The Dow Jones industrial average, in which IBM has the greatest weight, at more than 11 percent, doesn't include Apple at

all, and it rose slightly for the day. On Wednesday, by contrast, both indexes rose, along with IBM and Apple shares.

Why should the market's one-day reaction to IBM's earnings have anything to do with market returns over the next five weeks? Hickey speculates that IBM, which provides sophisticated, integrated digital solutions to business problems, now derives revenue from most of the world's big companies and accurately reflects the prospects of corporate America.

"When IBM is doing well, a lot of the corporations in America are doing well," he says.

But it's quite possible that the apparent connection between IBM's earnings and the overall market direction is nothing more than an anomaly and might not continue.

Through the years, traders, analysts and journalists have designated many a market bellwether, including U.S. Steel, General Motors, AT&T, RCA, Chrysler, DuPont, the New York Central Railroad, Consolidated Edison, Intel, Microsoft, Cisco Systems, Citigroup, General Electric and the 30-year Treasury bond. IBM has been called a bellwether, on and off, since at least the 1970s. Malkiel agrees that Apple isn't a bellwether, but he doubts that any company is. □

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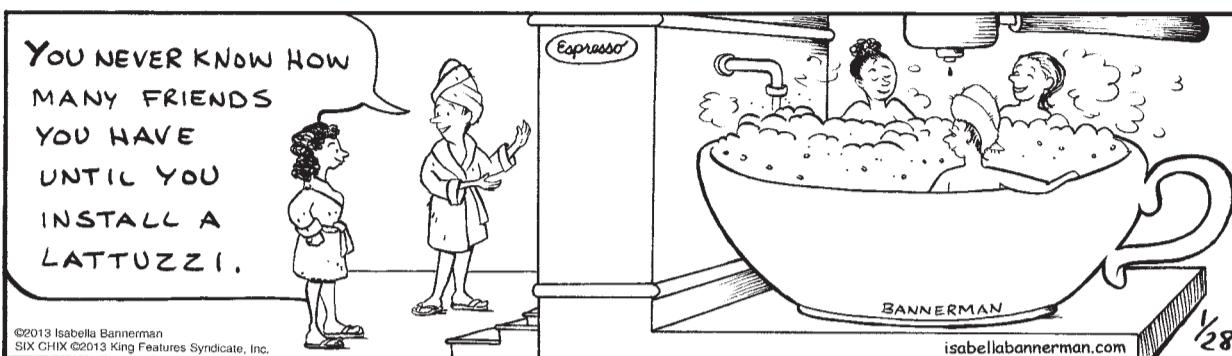
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Difficulty Level ★

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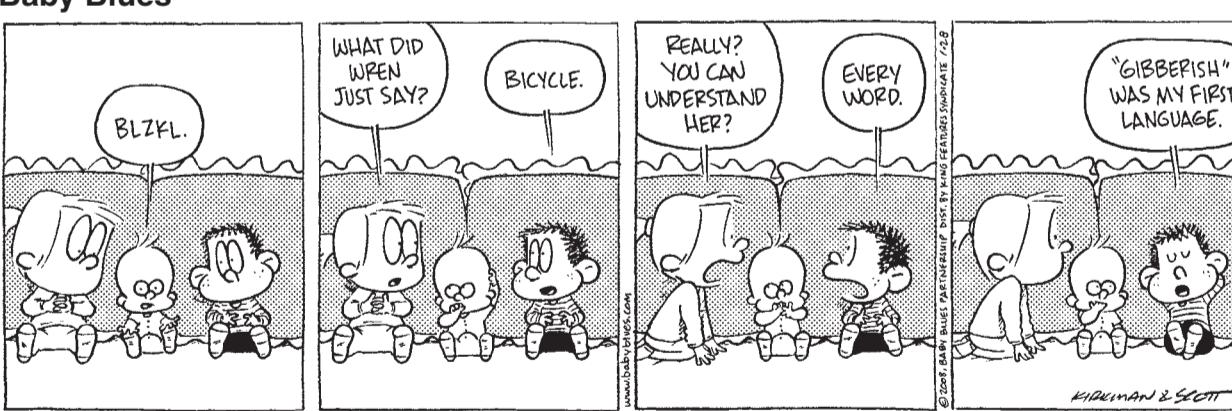


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Saturday's puzzle answer

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/28/13

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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- 4 Votes into office
 5 Not kidding
 6 Alan & Cheryl
 7 Heron's cousin
 8 Stein contents
 9 Sharp reply
 10 Babied
 11 Chili dog topper, perhaps
 12 Common __; good judgment
 13 Rough woolen coat fabric
 14 Neighbor of India
 15 Lowly laborer
 16 Middle __; over
 17 Up; forms a row
 18 Actress Delany
 19 Cowboys' event
 20 Serve soup
 21 Official with a six-yr. term
 22 Bloat
 23 Made laugh
 24 Merrymaking
 25 Small bills
 26 Unwilling
 27 Unselfishness; generous spirit
 28 Middle __; over
 29 Sour
 30 Jack or joker
 31 Fragrance
 32 Border
 33 Long parts of giraffe bodies
 34 Middle __; over
 35 "GIBBERISH" was my first language
 36 Under 65
 37 "GIBBERISH" was my first language
 38 Stains
 39 Senses
 40 Tweak
 41 Mad
 42 Chili dog
 43 Topper, perhaps
 44 Shear
 45 Mama
 46 Non-pains
 47 Donor
 48 Ogress
 49 Muscat
 50 Ibis
 51 Bib
 52 Stork
 53 Tutti
 54 Very pun
 55 Spread
 56 Papa
 57 Raise
 58 Atop
 59 Best owner
 60 Yens
 61 Sniff
 62 St. Joan of Arc
 63 Precious
 64 Wheel rod
 65 Pot covers
 66 Ease
 67 Stag or doe
 68 Wound memento
 69 One's feet; dawdles
 70 Ship's post
 71 Therefore
 72 __ the line; obeyed
 73 Of the kidneys
 74 Ray Cyrus
 75 Late singer
 76 Mama
 77 Patella's place
 78 Beach surface
 79 Renegade
 80 Incline
 81 Night __; those staying up late
 82 Green gem
 83 Builds
 84 Loan shark
 85 X-__; for adults
 86 Book diagrams
 87 Stay away from
 88 St. Joan of Arc
 89 On the __ of;
 90 About to
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 92 Vicinity
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 94 Self-satisfied
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Study: Distant rural areas may feel cities' heat

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heat rising up from cities such as New York, Paris and Tokyo might be remotely warming up winters far away in some rural parts of Alaska, Canada, and Siberia, a surprising study theorizes.

In an unusual twist, that same urban heat from buildings and cars may be slightly cooling the autumns in much of the Western United States,

Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, according to the study published Sunday in the scientific journal *Nature Climate Change*. Meteorologists long have known that cities are warmer than rural areas, with the heat of buildings and cars, along with asphalt and roofs that absorb heat. That's called the urban heat island effect and it's long been thought that the heat stayed close to the cities.

But the study, based on a computer model and the Northern Hemisphere, now suggests the heat does something else, albeit indirectly. It travels about half a mile (800 meters) up into the air and then its energy changes the high-altitude currents in the atmosphere that dictate prevailing weather.

"Basically, it changes the flow," said Guang Zhang of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California.

He wrote the paper with Aixue Hu at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

This doesn't change overall global temperature averages significantly, unlike

man-made greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Instead it redistributes some of the heat, the scientists said.

The changes seem to vary with the seasons and by region because of the way air currents flow at different times of the year.

During the winter, the jet stream is altered and weakened, keeping cold air closer to the Arctic Circle and from dipping down as sharply, Hu explained.

The computer model showed that parts of Siberia and northwestern Canada may get, on average, an extra 1.4 degrees to 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 to 1 degree Celsius) during the winter, which "may not be a bad thing," Zhang said.

The effect isn't quite as much in northern North Dakota and Minnesota, where temperatures might be about half a degree warmer (0.3 degrees Celsius), and even less along the East Coast.

In contrast, Europe and the Pacific Northwest are cooled slightly in the winter from this effect.

The jet stream changes prevent weather systems from bringing warmer air from the Atlantic to Europe and from the Pacific to the U.S. Northwest, thus cooling those areas a bit, he said.

The biggest cooling occurs in the fall, but Hu said he's not quite sure why that happens.

Several outside scientists said they were surprised by the study results, calling the work "intriguing" and "clever."

But they said it would have to be shown in more than one computer model and in repeated experiments before they could accept this theory.

"It's an interesting and rationally carried out study," said David Parker, climate monitoring chief of the United Kingdom meteorology office.

"We must be cautious until other models are used to test their hypothesis." □



In this July 18, 2012 file photo, the Empire State, MetLife and Chrysler buildings are seen against a hazy backdrop in New York.

Associated Press



In this June 27, 2011 file photo, Parisians leap into the Trocadero fountain to cool off in Paris.

Associated Press

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Abrams on 'Star Wars': 'surreal' and 'exciting'

MICHAEL CIDONI LENNOX

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — J.J. Abrams calls getting assigned to direct the seventh live-action "Star Wars" film "as surreal as it is exciting." The director-producer-writer spoke with a handful of media outlets on the red carpet before darting into the Producers Guild Awards on Saturday night. Abrams was there to accept the Norman Lear Achievement Award for such television works as "Felicity" (1998-2002), "Alias" (2001-2006), "Lost" (2004-2010), "Fringe" (2008-2013) as well as the current series "Person of Interest" and "Revolution."

Abrams also is proving to be a go-to director of successful new films for long-established franchises, such as "Star Trek" and "Mission: Impossible." Last week, Lucasfilm officially announced Abrams' hiring for "Star Wars: Episode VII," which has a tentative release date of 2015. "Star Wars" creator George Lucas personally endorsed Abrams in a statement: "I've consistently been impressed with J.J. as a filmmaker and storyteller. He's an ideal choice to direct the new Star Wars film and the legacy couldn't be in better hands."

As for Abrams' plans for "Episode VII"?

"You know, obviously, it's so early," he replied. "I can just say what I want to do: I want to do the fans proud. I want to make sure the story is something that touches people. And we're just getting started. I'm very excited." □



In this Jan. 8, 2013 file photo, J.J. Abrams arrives at the Winter TCA Fox All-Star Party at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, Calif.

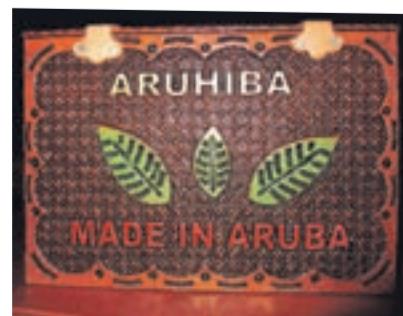
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



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'Hansel & Gretel' nabs \$19M, No. 1 at box office

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters" cooked up \$19 million in its opening weekend.

Paramount's action film update on the classic fairytale topped the box office, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Hansel & Gretel" features Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton as grown-up renditions of the title characters battling witches with crossbows.

Don Harris, Paramount's president of distribution, blamed icy weather on the East Coast for the film's not-so-bewitching debut. "We got dinged a little bit with the weather on Friday, but overall we're pleased," said Harris, who added that "Hansel & Gretel" performed solidly internationally, earning \$25 million overseas.

Other films opening over the weekend in the U.S. and Canada didn't fare as well. The crime thriller "Parker," starring Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez, debuted in fifth place with \$7 million, while Relativity Media's raunchy ensemble comedy "Movie 43" opened in the seventh spot with \$5 million.

Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian noted that it was the first time box-office grosses were down over last year after four up weekends.

Universal's supernatural horror film "Mama" starring Jessica Chastain dropped to second place with \$12.8 million in its second weekend.

Several best-picture Academy Awards contenders continued to benefit from Oscar buzz, as well as the motion picture academy's decision to move up this year's nomination announcement, giving nominees more time in theaters between the Jan. 10 nominations unveiling and the Feb. 24 ceremony.

"Having an Oscar nomination is like holding a lottery ticket," said Dergarabedian. "It could pay off on Os-

car night, but it's already paying big dividends now. All this time between the

Oscar nominations and the telecast is prime time for these movies to capitalize

on their higher profile." "Silver Linings Playbook," which is up for eight Acad-



This film image released by Paramount Pictures shows, from left, Famke Janssen as Muriel, Jeremy Renner as Hansel and Gemma Arterton as Gretel in a scene from "Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters."

Associated Press

emy Awards, came in third place over the weekend with \$10 million. The film starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence is in its 11th weekend of release and earned \$3 million overseas.

"Zero Dark Thirty," the Osama bin Laden manhunt drama also starring best actress nominee Chastain, dropped to fourth place with \$9.8 million. It's competing in five categories at the Academy Awards and nabbed \$3.6 million internationally.

"Django Unchained," which is nominated for five Oscars, took in \$5 million in sixth place, and the musical "Les Misérables," which is up for eight Academy Awards, earned \$3.9 million in the 10th position. It was the fifth weekend for both films. "Django" topped the international chart with \$47.9 million in 65 total territories. □

Jones, Hathaway win SAG supporting prizes

DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tommy Lee Jones of "Lincoln" and Anne Hathaway of "Les Misérables" claimed the first prizes of the night Sunday at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, winning supporting-acting honors that boost their prospects for the Academy Awards. Hathaway won for her role as a doomed single mother forced into prostitution in the adaptation of the stage musical based on Victor Hugo's epic novel.

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"I'm just thrilled I have dental," Hathaway said. "I got my SAG card when I was 14. It felt like the beginning of the world. I have loved every single minute of my life as an actor. ... Thank you for nominating me alongside incredible women and incredible performances."



Anne Hathaway accepts the award for outstanding female actor in a supporting role for "Les Misérables" at the 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Sunday Jan. 27, 2013.

Associated Press

Jones was not at the show, but the win improves his odds to become a two-time Academy Award winner.

He previously won a supporting-actor Oscar for "The Fugitive."

Earlier, the James Bond adventure "Skyfall" and the fantasy series "Game of

Thrones" picked up prizes for best stunt work, honors announced on the red carpet before the official SAG Awards ceremony.

JoBeth Williams and Scott Bakula announced the winners, noting the value of stunt players, who often are overlooked for their contributions to film and

television.

"The stunt men and women of our union are critical to the work that gets done," Bakula said. "They keep us healthy, they keep us alive, they keep us working. They keep our shows working."

The SAG honors are the latest show in a puzzling Academy Awards season in which Hollywood's top prize, the best-picture Oscar, looks up for grabs among several key nominees.

Honors from the actors union, next weekend's Directors Guild of America Awards and Saturday night's Producers Guild of America Awards — whose top honor went to "Argo" — typically help to establish clear favorites for the Oscars.

But Oscar night on Feb. 24 looks more uncertain this time after some top directing prospects, including Ben Affleck for "Argo" and Kathryn Bigelow for "Zero Dark Thirty," missed out on nominations. □

Deficit Hawks Down



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2013 New York Times

President Barack Obama's second inaugural address offered a lot for progressives to like. There was the spirited defense of gay rights; there was the equally spirited defense of the role of government, and, in particular, of the safety net provided by Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. But arguably the most encouraging thing of all was what he didn't say: He barely mentioned the budget deficit. Obama's clearly deliberate neglect of Washington's favorite obsession was just the latest sign that the self-styled deficit hawks – better described as deficit scolds – are losing their hold over political discourse. And that's a very good thing.

Why have the deficit scolds lost their grip? I'd suggest four interrelated reasons.

First, they have cried wolf too many times. They've spent three years warning of imminent crisis – if we don't slash the deficit now now now, we'll turn into Greece, Greece, I tell you. It is, for example, almost two years since Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles declared that we should expect a fiscal crisis within, um, two years. But that crisis keeps not happening. The still-depressed economy has kept interest rates at near-record lows despite large government borrowing, just as Keynesian economists predicted all along. So the credibility of the scolds has taken an understandable, and well-deserved, hit.

Second, both deficits and public spending as a share of GDP have started to decline – again, just as those who never bought into the deficit hysteria predicted all along.

The truth is that the budget deficits of the past four years were mainly a temporary consequence of the financial crisis, which sent the economy into a tailspin – and which, therefore, led both to low tax receipts and to a rise in unemployment benefits and other government expenses. It should have been obvious that the deficit would come down as the economy recovered. But this point was hard to get across until deficit reduction started appearing in the data.

Now it has – and reasonable forecasts, like those of Jan Hatzius of Goldman Sachs, suggest that the federal deficit will be below 3 percent of GDP, a not very scary number, by 2015.

And it was, in fact, a good thing that the deficit was allowed to rise as the economy slumped. With private spending plunging as the housing bubble popped and cash-strapped families cut back, the willingness of the government to keep spending was one of the main reasons we didn't experience a full replay of the Great Depression.

Which brings me to the third reason the deficit scolds have lost influence: The contrary doctrine, the claim that we need to practice fiscal austerity even in a depressed economy, has failed decisively in practice.

Consider, in particular, the case of Britain. In 2010, when the new government of Prime Minister David Cameron turned to austerity policies, it received fulsome praise from many people on this side of the Atlantic. For example, the late David Broder urged Obama to "do a Cameron"; he particularly commended Cameron for "brushing aside the warnings of economists that the sudden, severe medicine could cut short Britain's economic recovery and throw the nation back into recession."

Sure enough, the sudden, severe medicine cut short Britain's economic recovery and threw the nation back into recession.

At this point, then, it's clear that the deficit-scold movement was based on bad economic analysis. But that's not all: There was also clearly a lot of bad faith involved, as the scolds tried to exploit an economic (not fiscal) crisis on behalf of a political agenda that had nothing to do with deficits. And the growing transparency of that agenda is the fourth reason the deficit scolds have lost their clout.

What was it that finally pulled back the curtain here? Was it the way the election campaign revealed Rep. Paul Ryan, who received a "fiscal responsibility" award from three leading deficit-scold organizations, as the con man he always was? Was it the decision of David Walker, alleged crusader for sound budgets, to endorse Mitt Romney and his budget-busting tax cuts for the rich? Or was it the brazenness of groups like Fix the Debt – basically corporate CEOs declaring that you should be forced to delay your retirement while they get to pay lower taxes?

The answer probably is, all of the above. In any case, an era has ended. Prominent deficit scolds can no longer count on being treated as if their wisdom, probity and public-spiritedness were beyond question. But what difference will that make?

Sad to say, GOP control of the House means we won't do what we should be doing: spend more, not less, until the recovery is complete. But the fading of deficit hysteria means that the president can turn his focus to real problems. And that's a move in the right direction. □



For Obama's 2nd Term, Start Here



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2013 New York Times

Point to a group of toddlers in an upper-middle-class neighborhood in the U.S., and it's a good bet that they will go to college, buy nice houses and enjoy white-collar careers.

Point to a group of toddlers in a low-income neighborhood, and – especially if they're boys – they're much more likely to end up dropping out of school, struggling in dead-end jobs and having trouble with the law.

Something is profoundly wrong when we can point to 2-year-olds in this country and make a plausible bet about their long-term outcomes – not based on their brains and capabilities, but on their ZIP codes. President Barack Obama spoke movingly in his second Inaugural Address of making equality a practice as well as a principle. So, Mr. President, how about using your second term to tackle this most fundamental inequality?

For starters, this will require a fundamental rethinking of anti-poverty policy. American assistance programs, from housing support to food stamps, have had an impact, and poverty among the elderly has fallen in particular (they vote in high numbers, so government programs tend to cater to them). But, too often, such initiatives have addressed symptoms of poverty, not causes.

Since President Lyndon John-

son declared a "war on poverty," the United States has spent some \$16 trillion or more on means-tested programs. Yet the proportion of Americans living beneath the poverty line, 15 percent, is higher than in the late 1960s in the Johnson administration.

What accounts for the cycles of poverty that leave so many people mired in the margins, and how can we break these cycles? Some depressing clues emerge from a new book, "Giving Our Children a Fighting Chance," by Susan Neuman and Donna Celano.

Neuman and Celano focus on two neighborhoods in Philadelphia. In largely affluent Chestnut Hill, most children have access to personal computers and the shops have eight children's books or magazines on sale for each child living there.

Take a 20-minute bus ride on Germantown Avenue and you're in the Philadelphia Badlands, a low-income area inhabited mostly by working-class blacks and Hispanics. Here there are few children's books, few private computers and only two public computers for every 100 children.

On top of that, there's a difference in parenting strategies, the writers say. Upper-middle-class parents in the U.S. increasingly engage in competitive child-rearing. Parents send preschoolers to art classes and violin lessons and read "Harry Potter" books to bewildered children who don't yet know what a wizard is.

Meanwhile, partly by necessity, working-class families often take a more hands-off attitude to child-raising. Neuman and Celano spent 40 hours monitoring parental reading in the public libraries in each neighborhood. That was easy in the Badlands – on an average day "not one

adult entered the preschool area in the Badlands."

When I was a third-grader, a friend struggling in school once went with me to the library, and my mother helped him get a library card. His grandmother then made him return it immediately, for fear that he would run up library fines.

The upshot is that many low-income children never reach the starting line, and poverty becomes self-replicating.

Maybe that's why some of the most cost-effective anti-poverty programs are aimed at the earliest years. For example, the Nurse-Family Partnership has a home-visitation program that encourages new parents of at-risk children to amp up the hugging, talking and reading. It ends at age 2, yet randomized trials show that those children are less likely to be arrested as teenagers and the families require much less government assistance.

Or take Head Start. Critics have noted that the advantage its preschoolers gain in test scores fades by third grade, but scholars also have found that Head Start has important impacts on graduates, including lessening the chance that they will be convicted of a crime years later. James Heckman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, argues that the most crucial investments we as a country can make are in the first five years of life, and that they pay for themselves. Yet these kinds of initiatives are underfinanced and serve only a tiny fraction of children in need.

We don't have any magic bullets. But randomized trials and long-term data give us a better sense of what works – and, for the most part, it's what we're not doing, like improved education, starting with early childhood programs for low-income families. □

Fragile global economy, protests dominate Davos

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— The fragile state of the world economy, coupled with the relentless turmoil in Syria and the rocky fallout from the Arab Spring, dominated discussions during this year's annual gathering of the global elite at Davos, leaving many participants uneasy about what lies ahead as they left for home Sunday.

Even broad agreement that there are some positive signs on the economic front, at least in emerging markets, was coupled with a warning from the head of the International Monetary Fund. "Do not relax," Christine Lagarde said. There's still a "risk of relapse."

More than 2,500 of the best and brightest in business, government, academia and civic life gathered for the five-day World Economic Forum at this Alpine resort. But much of the overt glitz and glamor that is a usual feature was toned down or absent this year, a decision founder Klaus Schwab said reflected the serious issues facing the world.

Political and economic issues vie for top billing each year at Davos, and this time, the economy had the edge, with a special focus on how to promote

economic growth and jobs, especially for the youth among the world's 220 million jobless.

The IMF said that China, Africa, and other emerging markets could see significant growth, but Japan, eurozone nations and the U.S. are likely to struggle with negative to low growth. Ahead of the 43rd forum, the IMF downgraded its forecast for global economic growth this year by one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent. While the U.S. avoided the so-called "fiscal cliff" of automatic tax increases and spending cuts, and fears have abated that the euro currency union will break up, there is growing concern that governments may ease up on measures to improve growth and reduce debt that the IMF and many other institutions are calling for.

IMF chief Lagarde said the "very fragile and timid recovery" depends on leaders in the 17-nation eurozone, the United States and Japan making "the right decisions." The eurozone in particular "is fragile because it is prone to political crisis" and slow decision-making, she said. Davos participants' uneasiness about the world economy was matched by growing concern over



Swiss police try to arrest activists of the Women's Movement "FEMEN" outside the congress centrum at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

the political turmoil in the Arab world, terrorism in North Africa, a spate of natural disasters that have highlighted the failure to tackle climate change, and the growing inequality between the world's "haves" and "have nots." "Two years ago, gloom around the stalled economic recovery was leavened by euphoria at the outbreak of the Arab spring," Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch, told The Associated Press at Saturday night's low-key final reception. "This year, relief at the improved economic outlook is tempered by despair at the unimpeded

slaughter in Syria, uncertainty about the outlook in Egypt, and frustration over the Arab monarchies' resistance to reform."

The Arab Spring uprisings have ousted dictators in Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Egypt over the past two years. But now Islamists and liberals are wrangling over power, with Islamists mainly gaining the upper hand. Democracy is far from certain, and economic woes have left hundreds of thousands of young people jobless and frustrated that their "revolutions" haven't produced any dividends. Former Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa, a losing candidate in Egypt's presidential election last year, said there have been achievements, but warned that democracy isn't only about casting a vote.

"It is the respect of human rights, for rights of women, separation of powers, independence of the judiciary. This meaning of democracy we have not yet achieved," Moussa said.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, Israeli-Palestinian peace talks remain stalled, Arab monarchs remain entrenched, and the death toll from the escalating civil war in Syria has topped 60,000 with no end in sight. Jordan's King Abdullah II, whose country is hosting almost 300,000 Syrian refugees, predicted that Syrian President Bashar Assad's

regime will last at least another six months. He called for a transition plan involving all Syrians and the Syrian army.

He also urged stepped up international support to end the Syrian crisis, saying, "The weakest refugees are struggling now just to survive this year's harsh winter."

Abdullah told the forum that "unprecedented threats to regional and global stability and security" need international action now, not the "wait and see" response by some countries — which he did not identify — especially in helping governments emerge politically and financially from the Arab uprisings. The king, considered one of the region's moderate leaders, also warned Israel to stop playing the "waiting game," and said

President Barack Obama's second term offered the last opportunity to create two states — Palestine and Israel — that can live side-by-side in peace.

Angel Gurria, secretary-general of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, said the focus on resolving the world's economic crisis has distracted leaders from many other important issues, including education, the social consequences of unemployment and promoting ways to deal with climate change. □



Demonstrators hold banners during a protest against the Davos World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland.

(AP Photo/Keystone/Jean-Christophe Bott)